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Richard Badham Thornhill Esq.re

SHOOTING DIRECTORY.

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THE

SHOOTING DIRECTORY.

BY

R. B. THORNHILL, ESQ.

VIDE LEGE CREDE.

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TO THE SUBSCRIBERS.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

NOTHING but the pressing solicitations of a number of you, as well as of my friends and Brother Sportsmen, should have ever induced me to have published the following work, as I am conscious of its imperfections, and diffident respecting my own abilities.

It is necessary however that some apology should be made, when so many Treatises on nearly the same subject have appeared from the pens of men of science and classical elegance; but as experience has enabled me to project a clear and regular method, which has suited the taste and notions of every discerning Sportsman to whom it has as yet been submitted; the favorable reception it has met with from them has emboldened me to offer it to the public.

An Author seldom finds himself more embarrassed than when he attempts to give an account of his own productions. The desire he feels to preclude censure, by assigning reasons for not having succeeded more to his wishes; and the fear of offering any thing that indicates presumption, confines him to a narrow path which it is extremely difficult to tread with accuracy and satisfaction.

Many of the subjects which comprise this work have so frequently been handled at full length in separate publications, that each in this cannot be expected to consist solely of new principles; what originality it is therefore entitled to, is principally from a manuscript so far back as the year 1508, *and the Compiler's own indefatigable exertions in pursuit of every information, joined with his own experience.*

Many of the recent publications are indeed compilations from different works, and their authors have very liberally borrowed from the Cyclopædia, Encyclopædia Brittannica, The Gentleman's Recreation, Beckford on Hunting, and various others of their predecessors; nor is it pretended that the following work is entirely new. There will be found in it several collections from other books, but they are such only as have been thought excellent in their kind. It was believed the whole would not have been less acceptable for that reason, and that those occasional contributions has been so augmented as to contain such a quantity of important knowledge as has never yet been comprised in any single Treatise on the subject of Shooting.

It is the Compiler's invariable plan through the whole of this work, to be as clear and intelligent as he possibly can. He assures his readers he has bestowed all the pains imaginable; has perused with peculiar attention every recent information connected with the subject; and he trusts he has done so with a conciseness calculated to make it instructive, cheap and portable. Neither labour nor expence have been spared to render it accurate and useful; and he flatters himself on the score of utility and cheapness it will be found to exceed all other books on the same subject. And not until the reader has perused the greater part of it, will he be able truly to appreciate its merits, and form an adequate idea of the labour and pains expended in the execution.

Some individuals may perhaps lay to my charge a portion of vanity, in attempting a task of so much difficulty; yet I can assure the readers, I have not entered on a subject to which I have not only served four apprenticeships, but of which I am, in most sportsmen's opinions, fully master. Let me endeavour to remark, notwithstanding, and impress on the minds of my readers, that compiling a work of this nature requires more than merely to transcribe, or like a parrot, by rote commit to paper every circumstance related by preceding authors; on this subject, great experience is not only necessary, and a degree of practical knowledge possessed but by an adept in the school, and a complete practitional sportsman, to which character I candidly confess I have more claim than to any rank in the field of literature. This candid avowal, and appeal to the consideration and goodnature

of the learned, will, in this instance I hope, procure me their indulgence. Unadorned as it is with the beauties of composition, or elegance of stile, I trust they will not be surprised to find that what is offered to them is cloathed in a plain garb, always keeping in mind that the language of every sportsman should be as plain as possible in or out of the field.

The Compiler feels a peculiar pleasure in stating all the modern inventions and improvements lately made in the sporting world, by collecting and arranging all these recent discoveries, which must essentially conduce to facilitate their attainment: not content with one insertion of what has already been collected, he has augmented the work with a large accession from other quarters.

The rules laid down are extracted from the best publications, and from the information of the most experienced Sportsmen, with the addition of a variety of subjects and topics necessary for every sportsman, and as yet never laid before the public.

Nothing superfluous has been attended to. The different subjects have been minutely investigated, and proved by actual experience and perseverance, and therefore the Compiler hopes their validity will not be questioned. A strict observance of the advice and cautions recommended, will contribute essentially, he is convinced, to the prevention of many of those misfortunes, by which the lives of a number of individuals are lost or embittered.

As an apology for all inaccuracies, I beg leave to state, I have

not submitted my work to the correction of either professed scholars, or learned men.

How this first production of the Compiler's may be received by the public time can only discover. As there is an almost infinite variety of taste in the minds of men of literary subjects, some may probably censure, and others approve; but the Compiler is conscious of having done the utmost in his power to render the work as useful as possible; yet since no human production has ever been found perfect in its kind, it would be cruel, if not unjust, to expect absolute perfection in this his present and first attempt.

When he looks over the very respectable list of his Subscribers, (to whom he begs leave to return his most grateful thanks) he observes among them many who are justly distinguished for their refined taste. The honor they have done him is so flattering, that it gives him a sensation of pleasure not to be described.

Yet at the same time, when he reflects how little there is in his work worthy of their attention, it produces that anxiety which is natural to diffident minds on such occasions. He can only therefore rely on that candour which minds the best cultivated are always the most ready to exercise.

Convinced therefore that those young Sportsmen who are fond of Shooting, will in this work not only find an instructor that will not deceive them, but render them every essential service and necessary assistance in the pursuit of game. It is as such presented to you, my Lords and Gentlemen, trusting it will not only meet

your patronage, but sanction, and hoping those judges whose eyes it may meet, will view its inaccuracies and imperfections with a favorable one; and should any old and experienced Sportsman meet with passages that merit their approbation, the Compiler will think himself more than amply rewarded for his trouble; and he with the greatest respect subscribes himself,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obliged and obedient humble Servant,

RICHARD B. THORNHILL.

BATH, JULY 20, 1804.

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INTRODUCTION.

COULD we penetrate into the inmost recesses of nature, and discover the laws by which any thing is regulated and governed, there is no doubt but we should find a system noble grand and elevated; framed with exquisite skill, renewed and kept in action by the nicest principle of order, and supported by unerring wisdom. But this is a task beyond the reach of human knowledge and ability; as the study even of one particular arti-

cle is sufficient for the life of man; we are therefore under the necessity of substituting artificial systems, which although they fall short of perfection, yet greatly facilitate each particular study, and enable every contemplative mind to select parts most suited to his genius and inclination, by which means every separate branch may be pursued through its orders and genera, without encroaching upon any other; this has encreased the number of labourers; and their aggregate endeavours have greatly enriched the field of science.

The branch of natural history is the most comprehensive of all others, extending not only throughout that part of the animal kingdom, generally termed *Quadrupeds* (the lizard tribe excepted) but including also the cetaceous order, or whales and the human species. This class at first sight appears to unite animals, not only totally dissimilar in their outward appearance, but in no respect analogous in their habits and dispositions.

A more nice inspection and closer examination will however soon convince us of their similarity and near alliance; the outward appearance indeed affords an astonishing variety, but the inward structure is nearly alike in all the genera. They breathe through lungs, are viviparous, and suckle their young by means of mammellæ or teats, which differ in situation, and are more or less in proportion to the number of young brought forth by each species.

The placing the man at the head of this system, by Linnæus, has given offence to many naturalists, who think it a degradation to be ranked with the brutes that perish; but if we take the pains to examine the internal structure, and wonderful mechanism of the human frame, and compare it with that of beasts, as exemplified in the system of anatomy, and comparative anatomy; we shall find an astonishing similarity and agreement: composed of the same materials, furnished with the same organs, which are acted upon exactly

in the same manner; they are equally liable to accident, decay and putrefaction. On the other hand we find agreeable to the Mosaic account of the creation, that man was the last of the Creator's works; created in the image of his Maker with an immortal soul; endowed with reason and reflection, which enable him to contemplate the works of that omnipotent Being from whom his existence is derived.

From many considerations we have sufficient ground for believing that there are beings as far superior to us as we are to the brutes; and although we are connected with the brutes by our corruptible or earthly bodies; so are we united with angels, and ultimately with God himself by our incorruptible, or heavenly souls.

It appears evident that we are a connecting link of that great chain by which all beings are united, and it is possible that we are much further removed from the first great mover of all things, than from the most minute and apparently trifling part of the creation.

If we attempt a general view of the animal kingdom, a large and extensive field opens to us, boundless on all sides, and stored with an immense number of creatures, as different in their dispositions and manners as in their make and form. We shall find each animal assigned its proper element, climate and means of subsistence, that some possess strength and courage, accompanied with hunger and voracity, others gentleness, temperance and agility, attended with restlessness and timidity; some again are endued with faithfulness, patience and honesty, others are strongly characteristic by deceit and treachery. Some animals, and these the most gentle, innocent and tranquil, content themselves in our pastures enjoying the society of men. Those which are more fierce and suspicious, hide themselves in the deepest recesses of the forest, others as if they knew there was no safety for them on the surface of the earth, dig subterraneous abodes, take refuge in

caverns, or gain the summit of the most inaccessible mountains. Lastly the most ferocious and formidable kinds, inhabit desarts only, and reign as monarchs in those burning climates, where man nearly savage with themselves, are unable to conquer them.

The brute creation are in general confined to particular districts and situations suited to their respective wants and calls of nature. It is man alone that roves universally impressed with an irresistable curiosity, and an arduous thirst after knowledge; we see him daily encounter the greatest dangers, bid defiance to almost insurmountable difficulties, quitting his native country, where he not only enjoys all the necessaries but even the luxuries, willingly to encounter storms and tempests on the perilous ocean. We find him at one time almost naked, dissolving beneath the fervent heat of the sun, under the torrid zone, and at another wrapped in furs yet nearly petrified with cold, under the chilling influence of the frigid

zone. The intense heat and almost insupportable burning sands in the southern desart, the mountains of ice, and chilling blasts of the northern atmosphere, have each attractions to employ his faculties, engage his attention, and gratify his inquiring spirit.

Hence we may conclude that as all the treasures of nature are so artfully contrived, so wonderfully propagated and so providentially supported throughout her three kingdoms it seems intended by the Creator for the sake of man.

Every thing may be made subservient to his use, if not immediately, yet mediately; not so to that of other animals.

By the help of reason man tames the fiercest animals; pursues and catches the swiftest; nay he is able to reach even those which lie hid in the bottom of the sea.

By the help of reason, he encreases the number of vegetables immensely; and does that by art, which nature left to herself, could scarcely effect.

By ingenuity he obtains from vegetables, whatever is convenient or necessary for food, drink, clothing, medicine, navigation and a thousand other purposes.

He has found the means of going down into the abyss of the earth, and almost searching its very bowels.

With what artifice has he learned to get fragments from the most rocky mountains, to make the hardest stones fluid like water, to separate the useful metal from the useless dross, and to turn the finest sand to some use.

When we follow the series of created things and consider how providentially one is made for the sake of another, the matter comes to this, that every thing is useful that the Creator has made and that all things are made for the sake of man; and for this end more especially, that he, by admiring the works of the Creator, should extol his glory, and at once enjoy all those things

of which he stands in need, and in order to pass his life conveniently and pleasantly.

But to return to the subject of quadrupeds I shall not attempt a general view of the animal kingdom, the field is too extensive and would far exceed my limits or intentions in this present publication.

There are certainly an immense number of animals upon the face of the globe, whose uses are at present unknown to us; and to presume that they are useless would be a kind of blasphemy, little short of lessening the works of the infinite Creator, and bringing them to a level with our finite ideas.

I will not delay my readers by comparing the immense magnitude of the *elephant* with the diminitive smallness of the *shrew;* the swiftness of the *antelope* with the almost imperceptible motion of the *tortoise;* or noticing any part of the animal kingdom, except the dog, who from his sagacity, fidelity and docility becomes one of the most useful to man.

THE DOG.

THE services of this faithful and valuable animal, which has been so eminently useful to the domestic interests of men, in all ages, may certainly be deemed a treasure; and that he is so by many remains not the smallest doubt.

To give the history of this faithful companion, would be little less than to trace mankind back to their original state of simplicity and freedom; to mark the progress of civilization through the various changes of the world; and to follow attentively the gradual advancement of that order, which placed man at the head of the animal world, and gave him a manifest superiority over every part of the brute creation.

If we consider for a moment the state of man without the aid of this useful domestic, with what arts shall he oppose the numerous host of foes that surround him on every side, seeking every moment and opportunity to encroach upon his possessions, to destroy his labours, or to endanger his personal safety? or

how shall he bring into subjection such as are necessary for his well being? his utmost vigilance will not be sufficient to secure him from the rapacity of the one, nor his greatest exertions enable him to overcome the speed of the other.

To maintain his independence, to ensure his safety, and to provide for his support, it was necessary that some one among the animals should be brought over to his assistance, whose zeal and fidelity might be depended on; and where, amidst all the various orders of animated beings, could one be found so entirely adapted to this as the Dog?

To confirm the truth of these observations, we need only turn our attention to the present condition of those Nations not yet emerged from a state of barbarism, where the uses of the Dog are but little known or attended to, and we shall find, that they lead a precarious and unsettled life, and in a perpetual warfare with the still more savage part, inhabitants of the forest, with whom they are obliged to dispute the possession of their uncultivated fields, and not unfrequently to divide with them the fruit of their labour. From hence we may conclude that the attention of mankind in the earliest ages, would be engaged in training and rendering this animal subservient to the important purposes of domestic utility; and the result of this art has been the conquest and peaceable possession of the earth.

In the Dog we find fidelity, courage, zeal, and constancy of attachment; and yet all these qualifications will not defend man

on all occasions, from the anger and revenge which often assail him with a savage barbarity too shocking to relate.

The species of our English Dogs have ever been prized above those of other Nations, for their excelling those of every other Country; their valuable qualities have not been equalled, and therefore raise them above comparison; and hence it is well known, they are deemed great presents when sent any where abroad, and held in the highest estimation.

I purposed in the following Work, to confine myself entirely to those Dogs which accompany the gun, or are the proper attendants of the Shooter; but as I conceive it may be acceptable to my Readers, to enlarge a little upon this animal in general, I shall do so, in order to prove that what I have hitherto related, is founded on well known and authenticated facts.

That Dogs are in a degree related to each other, I am certain no one will attempt to deny. How numerous are the different kinds at this present time, is to be entirely attributed to the whim and caprice of man, who by a systematic arrangement, has rendered them capable of producing so many different species, to which time has given a permanency. Pointers, Setters, Hounds, and those dogs which come under the description of dogs of higher degree and qualities, are preserved, and remain lately pretty distinct.

The natural disposition of the Dog in a savage state, is fierce, cruel and voracious; but when civilized, and accustomed to live

with men, he is possessed of every amiable quality: He seems to have no other desire, than to please by his obedience, to protect his master, and to gratify him. He is gentle, obedient, and submissive; these dispositions, joined to his almost unbounded sagacity, justly claim the esteem of mankind; accordingly, there is not any animal so much caressed or respected; he is so docile, and so much formed to please, that he assumes the very air and temper of the family in which he resides. Let us now just take a view of the different kinds, as well as the properties and accomplishments of this valuable animal, in which we shall be able, not only to see the utility they are of, but we shall also be astonished with their wonderful sagacity.

An animal endowed with such a multitude of uncommon qualities, must answer many useful purposes. His fidelity and vigilance are daily employed to protect our persons, our flocks, and our goods; and to mention one of our more common instances of the sagacity of the Dog, by way of elucidating its general character, it may not be unworthy of our remarks, to notice its care in directing the blind man; which is not the least circumstance worthy of our attention. There are few who have not seen an unfortunate blind man, led by his dog through the various passages of a populous town, to the accustomed place where he sits to supplicate the contributions of passengers. It may be sometimes observed to stop at particular houses, to receive the morsel from the hand of benevolence, or pick from

the ground the money thrown out to relieve its miserable owner; when the day is past, it conducts him home again, and gratefully receives as the reward of his services, the scanty pittance which poverty and wretchedness can bestow.

The next of these useful animals is the Shepherd's Dog; ever faithful to his charge, he reigns at the head of the flock, where he is better known and attended to than even the voice of the Shepherd; safety, order, and discipline, are the fruits of his vigilance and activity. In those large tracts of land, which in many parts of this Kingdom are solely appropriated to the feeding of sheep, and other cattle, this sagacious animal is of the utmost importance; immense flocks may be seen continually ranging over these extensive plains, as far as the eye can reach; seemingly without controul, where only is the Shepherd, attended by his Dog, the constant companion of his toils. He receives his commands, and is always prompt to execute them; he is the watchful guardian of his flock, prevents them from straggling, keeps them together, and conducts them from one part of his pasture to another; he attends the flock in the absence of his master, and often is left in care of his charge for a whole day; if the flock should by chance be turned into any particular field, it is his duty (and he will fulfill it) to see that no one either goes over the fence, or wanders beyond the enclosure; he will, at the word or signal, seize any sheep once shewn to him, and although he sometimes catches them by the leg, or throws them

to keep and secure them for the Shepherd, he is tender of them, and seldom hurts them; he will not suffer any strange sheep to mix with his own flock, but carefully keeps off every intruder. In driving a number of sheep, a well-trained Dog never fails to confine them to the road; watches every avenue that leads from it, where he takes his stand, threatening every delinquent; he pursues the stragglers, if any should escape his vigilance, and forces them into order, without doing them the least injury.

If the Herdsman when absent from the flock, should wish to have them home, as soon as he comes in sight, and gives the well known signal, this faithful creature conducts them to his master, although at a considerable distance. As a proof of the sagacity of this kind of Dog, the following story of a Shepherd's Dog, which was copied from Doctor Anderson, may convince my Readers they may be taught to do any thing; and the fact here related of this Dog, was proved by evidence on the trial of his master, who was a notorious sheep-stealer. When this Dog's master intended to steal any sheep, he did not do it himself, but sent his Dog to perform the theft: With this view, and to enable his Dog to bring such sheep as he most approved of, and under a pretence to the owner of the sheep that he wished to look at them, and to purchase them, he went through the flock with the Dog at his heels, to whom he gave a secret signal, so as to let him know the individuals he wanted, to the number of six or seven out of many score; he then went home, and although

at a great distance, he sent the Dog by himself in the night-time, who picked out the sheep that had been shewn him, and after separating them from the flock, drove them before him till he came and delivered his charge to his master.

This breed of Dogs seems at present to be preserved in the greatest purity in the northern part of Scotland; where its aid is highly necessary, in managing the numerous flocks of sheep bred in those extensive wilds.

The next of the Canine race we shall take under our consideration, is the Cur Dog. Although this animal is not so highly valued as the Shepherd's Dog, yet from experience we know, he has his merit as well as other Dogs. He is a trusty and useful servant to the Farmer and Grazier; and although he is not taken notice of by Naturalists as a distinct race, yet it is now so generally bred, especially in the north of England, and such great attention is paid in breeding it, that we cannot help considering it as a permanent kind.

Cur Dogs are chiefly employed in driving cattle, in which way they are extremely useful. They are larger, stronger, and fiercer than the Shepherd's Dog; and their hair is smoother and shorter, they are mostly of a black and white colour; their ears are half pricked, and many of them are whelped with short tails, which seem as if they had been cut; these are called self-tailed Dogs. They bite very keenly, and as they always make their attack at the heel, cattle have no defence against them; in

this way they are more than a match for a Bull, which they quickly compel to run; their sagacity is remarkable, and uncommonly great; they know their master's fields, and are singularly attentive to the cattle that are in them. A good Dog of this breed, watches, goes his rounds, and if any strange cattle should happen to appear amongst the herd, or in his master's grounds, although unbidden, he quickly flies at them, and with keen bites obliges them to depart.

Similar to the Cur is that Dog which is commonly used in driving cattle to the slaughter; and as these Dogs have frequently to go long journies, great strength, as well as swiftness, is required for that purpose; they are generally therefore of a mixed kind, and unite in them the several qualities of the Shepherd's Dog, the Cur, the Mastiff, and the Greyhound.

Thus, by a judicious mixture of different kinds, the services of the Dog, are rendered still more various and extensive, and the great purposes of domestic utility more fully answered.

The savage aspect and disposition of the Greenland Dog, claims our attention, and is truly worthy of our notice; he seems to bear some affinity to the regions of the climate he inhabits.

The Pomeranian, or Wolf Dog, of M. de Buffon; the Siberian, Lapland, and Iceland Dogs, are somewhat similar to it in the sharpness of their muzzles, in their long shaggy hair, and bushy curling tails; the principal difference is in their size, and

though much larger, they all of them have much resemblance to the Shepherd's Dog.

Most of the Greenland Dogs are white, some spotted, and some black: They may be said rather to howl than to bark.

The Greenlanders sometimes eat their flesh. In the Society Islands they have these kind of Dogs; they are of the largest sort, and form the common food of the inhabitants. They are fattened with vegetables, which the natives cram down their throats, as we serve turkeys; when they will voluntarily eat no more, they are killed by strangling, and the extravasated blood is preserved in cocoa-nut shells, and baked for the table.

They grow very fat, and are allowed, even by Europeans who have got ever their prejudices, to be very sweet and palatable; but the taste of the flesh of these animals was not confined to the Islanders of the Pacific Ocean; the ancients considered a young and fat Dog, excellent food, especially if it had been castrated.

Hippocrates placed it on a footing with mutton and pork; and in another place says, that the flesh of a grown Dog is wholesome and strengthening; but that of Puppies, relaxing.

The Romans admired sucking Puppies; they sacrificed them to their Deities, and thought them a supper in which the Gods delighted!

The Greenlanders frequently make garments of their skins, and use them in drawing sledges, to which they yoke them, four, five, and sometimes six together.

Five of these dogs, that had escaped with their trappings, were found in Greenland, and brought to this country some years ago, by one of our ships in the Fishery. The Dogs of Kamschatska are commonly black and white; they are strong, nimble and active, and are very useful in drawing sledges; the only method of travelling in that country during the winter; they travel with great expedition. Captain King relates, that during his stay there, a Courier travelling with dispatches, who was drawn by them, performed a journey of two hundred and seventy miles in less than four days.

The sledges are usually drawn by five dogs, four of them yoked, two and two abreast; the foremost acts as a leader to the rest; the reins being fastened to a collar round the leading dog's neck, but are of little use in directing them; the driver depending chiefly on their obedience to his voice, with which he animates them to proceed; the greatest care and attention are consequently used in training them for leaders, which are more valuable according to their steadiness and docility; the sum of forty Roubles, or ten pounds, being no unusual price for one of them. The rider has a crooked stick, answering the purpose both of whip and reins, with which by striking on the snow, he regulates the speed of the dogs, or stops them at his pleasure;

when they are inattentive to their duty, he often chastises them by throwing it at them, and shews great dexterity in regaining his stick again; which is the greatest difficulty attending his situation; for if he should by any chance happen to lose it, the dogs immediately discover the circumstance, and never fail to set off at full speed, and continue to run until their strength is exhausted, or till the carriage is overturned and dashed to pieces, or hurried down a precipice.

In December, 1784, a Dog of this kind was left by a smuggling vessel, near Boomer, on the coast of Northumberland. Finding himself deserted, he began to worry the sheep, and did so much damage, that he became the terror of the country within a circuit of above twenty miles. We are assured, that when he caught a sheep, he bit a hole in its right side, and after eating the tallow about the kidneys, left it; several of them thus lacerated were found alive by the Shepherd, and some of them being properly taken care of, recovered, and afterwards had lambs. From his delicacy in this respect, the destruction he made may in some measure be conceived; as it may be readily supposed, the fat of one sheep in a day would hardly satisfy his hunger.

The Farmers were so much alarmed by his depredations, that various means were used for his destruction, they frequently pursued him with Hounds and Greyhounds; but when the dogs came up with him, he laid down on his back, as if supplicating

for mercy, and in that position they never hurt him. He therefore laid quietly taking his rest, till the Hunters approached, when he made off without being followed by the Hounds, till they were again incited to the pursuit, which always terminated unsuccessfully. It is rather singular, and worthy of remark, that he was one day pursued from Howick to upwards of thirty miles distance; but returned again to the same place, and killed sheep the same evening. His constant residence during the day, was upon a rock on the Heugh-Hill, near Howick, where he had a view of four roads that approached it; and in March, 1785, after many fruitless attempts, he was at last shot there.

A similar circumstance happened a few years ago, in the county of Corke, in Ireland. The Compiler was assured, that although this Dog was a small one, he did a wonderful deal of mischief; sheep, lambs, and fowls, were equal to him; till at length he alarmed the Farmers and inhabitants by his frequent depredations; for he killed such numbers of their cattle, that they formed a plan to destroy him by hunting him, which they frequently did without success; he gave them very severe chases, but always beat or evaded the Hounds by his tricks. He was shortly after killed near Corke, in the act of killing a sheep; and though many of the inhabitants conceived him to be a stray dog, he seemed from his hair and appearance as if he had been all his life in that wild state.

The fiercest of all the Dog kind is the Bull Dog, which is probably the most courageous creature in the world. It is low in stature, but very strong and muscular; its nose is short, and the under jaw projects beyond the upper, which gives it a fierce and unpleasing aspect. Its courage in attacking the Bull is well known: Its fury in seizing, and its invincible obstinacy in maintaining its hold, are truly astonishing. It always aims at the front; and generally fastens upon the lip, the tongue, the eye, or some part of the face; where it hangs, in spite of every effort of the Bull to disengage himself.

The uncommon ardour of these Dogs in fighting, will be best illustrated by the following fact, related by an eye witness, which, at the same time, corroborates in some degree that wonderful account of the Dogs of Epirus, given by Elian, and quoted by Doctor Goldsmith, in the history of the Dog. Some years ago, at a Bull-baiting in the North of England, when that barbarous custom was very common, a young Man, confident of the courage of his Dog, laid some trifling wager, that he would at separate times, cut off all the four feet of his Dog; and that, after every amputation, it would attack the Bull. The cruel experiment was tried, and the Dog continued to seize the Bull as eagerly as if he had been perfectly whole.

In Holland, and at Brussells, the inhabitants train their dogs to draw small carts to the herb markets; at the Hague they are

employed in bringing fish to the markets for several miles, and what is very singular, without a driver.

The mode we are informed they pursue to teach them to go, or come without a guide, is by not feeding them, until they arrive at the place of their destination; and, on coming in with a load of fish, a couple of fresh dogs are directly harnessed, when they return empty in haste, confident of being instantly fed on their getting back, which is never omitted on any account.

In most parts of Holland, it is a very common sight to see a large Dog, harnessed in front of a wheelbarrow, while his master is guiding it, and the whole draft is entirely left to the Dog; and there are those Dogs who perform some singular services, that are called *Chiens du Sel*. The Kamschatskans, Esquimaux, and Greenlanders, treat their poor dogs with great neglect; the former, during summer (the season in which they are useless) turn them loose to provide for themselves, and recal them in October, into their usual confinement and labour. They will travel great journeys: Marco Polo informs us, he heard from the Merchants who used to go far North, to traffick for the precious Furs, that the manner in which they travelled was on sledges, drawn by six great dogs; and that they changed them and the sledges on the road, as we do in this country in going post. The Kamschatskans make use of their skins for cloathing, and oftheir long hair for ornament.

Egdo says, the Greenlanders Dogs will travel sixty Fnglish miles a day, although the sledge be well laden, and their Masters in it besides. The Greenlanders, notwithstanding the services they derive from their dogs, are as bad masters as the Kamschatskans; they leave their dogs to feed on muscles or berries; unless in a great capture of Seals, when they treat these poor animals with the blood and garbage.

Next to the Bull Dog is the Mastiff, which is a much finer and more able dog than the former; its aspect is sullen and grave, and its bark loud and terrific. He seems to be every way formed, for the important trust of guarding and securing the valuable property often committed to his care: Houses, Yards, Gardens, &c. &c. are safe from depredations whilst in his custody. Confined during the day, as soon as the gates are locked, he is left to range at full liberty: He then goes round the premises, examines every part of them, and by loud barking, gives notice that he is ready to defend his charge. Doctor Caius in his curious treatise on British Dogs, tells us, that three of these animals were reckoned a match for a Bear, and four for a Lion.

We have a curious account recorded in Stow's Annals, of an engagement between three Mastiffs and a Lion, in the presence of James the First. One of the dogs being put into his den, was soon disabled by the Lion, which took it by the head and neck, and dragged it about: Another dog was then let loose, and served in the same manner; but the third being put

in, immediately seized the Lion by the lip, and held him for a considerable time, till being severely torn by his claws, the Dog was obliged to quit his hold, and the Lion, being greatly exhausted in the conflict, refused to renew the engagement; but taking a sudden leap over the Dog, fled into the interior part of his den. Two of the dogs soon died of their wounds: The last survived, and was taken great care of by the King's son; who said, " He who had fought with the king of beasts, should never after fight with an inferior creature."

The following anecdote will shew, that the Mastiff is conscious of its superior strength, and knows how to chastise the impertinence of an inferior:

A large Dog of this kind, belonging to the late M. Riddley, Esq. of Heather, near Newcastle, being frequently molested by a Mongrel, and teized by its continual barking and attacks; at last exasperated, took it up in his mouth, and with great composure, dropped it over the quay into the river, without doing any further injury to an enemy so much his inferior.

As a proof of the sagacity of Dogs, I must not omit to relate two circumstances well known to many persons about Yarmouth and Newcastle. During a severe storm in the year 1789, a ship belonging to Newcastle, was lost near Yarmouth; and a Newfoundland Dog alone escaped on shore, bringing in his mouth the captain's pocket-book; he landed amidst a number of spectators, several of whom in vain endeavoured to take it from

him. The sagacious animal, as if sensible of the importance of his charge, which, in all probability was delivered to him by his perishing master; at length leapt fawningly against the breast of a man, who had attracted his notice among the crowd, and delivered the book to him. The Dog immediately returned to the place where he landed, and watched with great attention for every thing that came from the wrecked vessel, seizing them, and endeavouring to bring them to land.

The other circumstance, is an instance of the great docility and strength of observation in another Newfoundland Dog. A Gentleman walking by the side of the river Tyne, and observing a Child fall into the river on the opposite side, gave notice to his Dog, which immediately jumped in, swam over, and catching the child in his mouth, brought it safe to land.

The recollection of some dogs is astonishing; there are many, that neither time nor absence can erase their master from their memory; and as a proof of this assertion, the Compiler some years back lent a favourite Pointer of his to Captain Edwards, of Solihull, near Birmingham, with whom he remained for some years: Captain Edwards assured him that the Dog refused to hunt, nor could he entice him to follow him for a length of time. He kept him for two years, after which, Captain Edwards was requested by letter to send the Dog to the Compiler in Ireland, where he resided at that period. He was accordingly sent on board a Corke Packet at Bristol, and on hearing the

vessel was arrived, which then lay a great distance off the shore, but within hail; the Compiler went to get the Dog, and seeing him on the deck, called to the hands on board to bring him on shore; the Dog, on hearing his master's voice, instantly leaped into the water, and swam to shore, in presence of a number of spectators.

It surely cannot be disputed, but dogs will find their way back to their own home, let them be carried ever so far distant; of one instance, Mr. Daniel in his elegant compilation recites of a Spaniel of Colonel Hardy's, who was sent for by express to Bath, returning from thence to the Colonel's house, at *Springfield*, in Essex; although the Dog came the whole way shut up in the chaise, without being able to see the road it was coming. The instinct in dogs returning home, will be further corroborated by the following circumstance.

The Compiler purchased a Setter in Cumberland, in the year 1800, in order to take over to Ireland, and sailed from Maryport for Corke; but the vessel getting too far to the westward, was forced to put into *Courtmasherry*, in the west end of that county where he landed, and took the Setter home. In a week after the Dog was lost, and he offered many rewards by advertisement and otherwise; and sent to the Captain of the vessel with whom he came, to know if the Dog had returned to the vessel, which was found by the Captain's letter to be the case; and that the Dog had made several attempts to re-

gain the ship, but was driven off by the sailors: The Dog went off and was never heard of, until the Compiler received a letter from the person of whom he purchased the Setter, to say *Sancho* was at his house. It is hardly possible to describe the astonishment the man shewed on the owner's arrival in England, when he informed him when and where he lost him; and from every information he could get from the man, it appeared, that the Dog had been absent three months on his journey; nor conld he conjecture by what means the animal crossed or got home, other than that in Corke he got on board some collier from the quay, and was taken to Whitehaven, Maryport, or some of the adjacent ports.

As a further proof of the utility and sagacity of those valuable creatures, there are two curious circumstances, authenticated by Mr. Daniel in his Field Sports.

A small Spaniel that belonged to a Gentleman in Vere-street, Clare-market, as he was going to Drury-lane theatre with his family, thought it prudent to lock up this Dog in a room, lest he might be lost in his absence. In the evening, his son let him out, when the Dog went off to the play-house immediately, and found his master, who was nearly in the centre of the pitt, which was uncommonly crowded.

A young gentleman being in Paris, in the year 1800, was going into some place of public entertainment and his Dog with

him, but the guard at the door objected to the Dog's being admitted, but said he would take care of it for the gentleman until he should return. The young gentleman had not been long in this place when he missed his watch, and going to the guard and informing him of the circumstance, requested the Dog might be allowed to return with him into the rooms, as through his means he would certainly recover his watch; the request was granted, and the young gentleman returning, intimated to his Dog that he had lost something. The Dog instantly set out in search of the watch, and fastened on a person, who, on being searched, proved to be the thief, as not less than six watches were found on him, and amongst the rest that of the gentleman's; on the watches being laid down, the Dog picked out his master's watch, and bore it to him by the chain.

There does not remain the smallest doubt but that Dogs will imitate the actions of their masters; they will often open a door, or ring a bell, when they are desirous of gaining admittance. Mr. May, of the Circus, Bath, has a Terrier that the Compiler have seen ring the bell when directed; and what is still more extraordinary, if he perceives his master put on his gloves, he will run directly and fetch his master his hat, aud has often selected Mr. May's hat and picked it out from amongst a dozen of other hats, where it has been placed in order to try if the Dog would be cunning enough to find it.

The 64th regiment of infantry, when quartered in Limerick, Ireland, had a Dog by the name of Moses, that was the only Dog ever admitted into their mess, under a heavy fine. Moses was in fact, looked on as a privileged and regimental Dog; Moses was every one's Dog and servant. This poor brute would leap at the bell-rope, and ring the bell when directed; take any person's hat off the peg if desired, and has often brought a bottle of wine to the President, to convey which, he laid hold of it by the neck.

Faber mentions a Dog, belonging to a nobleman of the Medici family, which always attended at his master's table, took from him his plates and brought him others, and if he wanted wine, would carry it to him, in a glass placed upon a silver plate, which it held in its mouth, without spilling the smallest drop. The same Dog would also hold the stirrup in his teeth whilst his master was mounting his horse.

That Dogs are capable of mutual attachment, is evident from the well-known story of the Dog of St. Albans, which being left by its master at an inn, until he returned from London, and being ill treated by a Dog belonging to the house, stole privately off: it soon returned, with another which was much larger and stronger than itself, and both fell upon the agressor, and punished him severely for his cruelty to a stranger.

A curious circumstance, related by Major Trevellian to the Compiler, happened lately at his country seat. He had been

sent a very fine Setter by Mr. Bagwell, of Piper's Inn, and on putting the Setter into the kennel with the other Dogs, they all fell on him and tore him to pieces.

From the structure of the Dog's teeth, it might be concluded, a priori; that he is a carnivorous animal. He does not, however, eat indiscriminately every kind of animal substance; he will not eat the bones of a goose, crow, or hawk; but he will eat the putrid flesh of most other animals, except the flesh of their own species, which cannot be so dressed by the art of man but they will find out by their smelling, and avoid it.

He is possessed of such strong digestive powers, as to draw nourishment from the hardest bones; when flesh cannot be procured, he will eat fish, fruits, succulent herbs, and bread of all kinds; when oppressed with sickness, to which he is very subject, especially in the beginning of summer, and before bad weather, in order to procure a puke, he eats the leaves of grass; but that which he seeks most, and likes best, is the quicken grass, the bearded wheat grass, or the rough cock's foot grass, which gives immediate relief, as it causes him frequently to discharge his stomach. Dogs, if allowed, will eat so as to be very sick, and are not well able to contain, or retain in their stomachs what they eat, when in great quantities; especially horse-flesh. If he his guilty of stealing, he generally slinks off, as if conscious of the immorality of the action, and claps his tail between his legs; he

is also guilty of the same when he acts improperly, or when he is threatened with angry words.

The Dogs common drink is water, which he takes in small quantities at a time, by lapping with his tongue; for if he was capable of drinking like a horse, he would, in hot weather when hunted, drink until he would burst, (if I may be allowed the expression) for in hunting, or indeed at any time, he is not capable of being restrained from drinking like a Horse. A Dog will throw himself into the water in hot weather, particularly Setters and Pointers, when hard hunted; yet, in their natural state, these two kind of Dogs have an aversion to water; in some, and indeed many parts of England, in a dry summer, it is very difficult to meet with water as often as the sportsman wishes, and at that time it is no uncommon sight to behold the Dogs throwing themselves in the shades of ditches, and under walls, almost ready to expire with heat. His excrements are hard scybals, which, especially after eating bones, are white, and go by the name of *album græcum*, among physicians; this *album græcum* for a long time was in great repute as a septic, but is now entirely disregarded. When he throws out his excrements, he is particular where; he does it on thistles, or on high stones, or the roots of trees, which seem to be his favourite places. Wherever his excremetns fall, or he pisses, it is sure to destroy almost every vegetable or animal substance; if his urine falls on leather, when recently expelled, it will make it rotten in a few days; however, Nature

has wisely instituted that they should prefer such places to dung whereon they cannot render an injury to mankind. When the Dog makes urine he does it in different ways, but this happens only to vary from the time they are puppies until they are twelve months old; prior to their attaining that age they squat down the hinder part, which is always a symptom amongst sportsmen, of the youth of a Dog, for a Dog-merchant always remarks when he is shewing you, or telling you the age of a Dog, that he does not yet cock his leg. Most Dogs, after twelve months, throw out their urine side ways, by raising their hinder leg against some place; which is the most common way they follow. If a Dog comes where another Dog has pissed, he will do the same, even if a hundred Dogs went before him and did it ever so often. It creates our surprize to conceive where such a quantity of urine can be secreted. The Dog is an animal remarkable for travelling long journies, he will keep with any horse for miles, and it has been long since decided, that a Dog will go a longer journey than a horse, and will hold it out longest. When he is fatigued he lolls out his tongue, but never sweats, and is remarkable for his quick motions. When he is about to lie down, he turns himself round several times to find out the best situation, and the easiest position to lie in, and will often get up if uncomfortable, and try and place himself in a different posture, from what he was in before; he generally lies with his head sideways, or with his nose inclined

to his tail, and often with his head above his fore feet, sometimes with his head between his legs, which are extended at full length: he sleeps little, and that little does not seem to be very quiet, he is restless, and starts frequently, when he seems to hear with more acuteness than when awake, he frequently moves his legs, and barks while asleep, which is an indication of dreaming; as to his sense of smelling, he is well known to possess that sense to a degree far beyond my description. The Dog eats ravenously and enviously, with oblique eyes, is an enemy to beggars, bites at stones thrown at him, is fond of licking sores, howls at certain notes in music, and often pisses on hearing them. He has such a strong resemblance to the Fox and the Wolf, that many people seem to think he is the production of one or other of those animals, tamed and civilized.

Buffon informs us, that he kept a young Dog and a young Wolf together, until they were three years of age, without their discovering the least inclination to copulate. He made the same experiment with a Dog and a Fox; but their antipathy was rather increased when the female was in season. From these experiments, we ought naturally to conclude, that Dogs, Wolves, and Foxes, are perfectly distinct genera of animals.

There have, however, been many instances to the contrary, of which I shall take notice, when it may be possible to shew, there have been many reasons to be certain that the Wolf and

Dog have produced young ones; as also the Dog and the Fox; the first instance that happened very recently is as follows:

Mr. Brooke, animal-merchant, in Holborn, turned a Wolf to a Pomerian bitch at heat; the congress was immediate, and as usual between dog and bitch, she produced ten puppies.

Mr. Pennant saw one of them at Gorden Castle, that had very much the resemblance of a Wolf, and also much of its nature; having been slipped at a weak Deer, it instantly caught at the animal's throat and killed it. I could not learn (says Mr. Pennant) whether this mongrel continued its species; but another of the same kind, stocked the Neighbourhood of Fochabers in the County of Murray (where it was kept) with a multitude of Curs of a most wolfish aspect. There was lately living a mongrel offspring of this kind, it greatly resembled its Wolf Parent; it was first the property of Walstein Dixey, afterwards of Sir Willoughby Aston; during the day it was very tame, but at night it sometimes relapsed into ferocity; it never barked but rather howled; when it came into fields where sheep were, it feigned lameness, and if no one was present would instantly attack them. It had been seen in copulation with a bitch, that afterwards pupped. The breed was imagined to resemble in many respects, the supposed sire, it died between the age of four and six months. The bitch will also breed with the Fox, which is evident from two or three instances. The woodman of the Manor of *Mengewell*, in *Oxfordshire*, has a bitch which con-

stantly follows him, the offspring of a tame Dog Fox by a shepherd's cur; and she again had puppies by a Dog. A tame Fox, chained up in a yard, (belonging to a friend of the Compiler's) was seen to copulate with a small bitch Terrier, the produce was so extremely like the Fox, that many people were deceived on seeing the puppies, especially if running at a distance; a curious circumstance occurred in consequence of mistaking one of these Dogs for a Fox, and so risible, that a recital may be acceptable to my readers.

As St. Stephen's day (in Ireland) is solely appropriated to hunting, there is scarcely a pack of hounds in that country that does not go out on that day. A Mr. Butler who lived five miles from the residence of the gentleman who had those breed of Terriers, above described, happening, on this memorable hunting day, to be rather late in drawing for a Fox, came immediately to the cover which had been previously drawn by this Gentleman, and who had found and gone away with a Fox. Mr. Butler did not find, but from the great rate that the first Hounds had got off with their Fox, one of these curious Terriers was thrown out, and making the best of his way after the pack, was perceived at a distance crossing a field by a countryman, who tallied him for a Fox, and shouted to Mr. Butler to bring on his Hounds; by the time the Hounds came up, the supposed Fox had got on a great distance. The sportsmen elated, the hounds were laid on, and went off.

down wind as fast as they could run, and the huntsman, has declared to the Compiler, so confident was he of its being a Fox, that on seeing him a field off, just on running into him, he tallied him for a Fox, as did many others; and to their great dissapointment, on the Terrier's hearing the hounds after him, and thinking they were the pack which he was in quest of, turned round on a sudden and ran towards them.

If we observe the largeness of the Dog's make, the elegance of his form, the strength of his body, the freedom of his motions, and also his exterior qualities, these are not the noblest properties in him, or in any animated being; for, as in mankind, understanding is preferred to figure, courage or strength, and sentiment to beauty, so the interior qualities are those which we esteem most in animals: it is in these, that they differ from the Automaton, it is by these they are raised above the vegetable, and made to approach nearer to ourselves; it is their sense which ennobles their being, and which regulates and enlivens it, which commands the organs, makes the members active, gives birth to desire, and gives to matter, progressive motion, will, and life.

The Dog, independent of his beauty, vivacity, strength, and swiftness, has all the interior qualities, which can attract the regard of men; what can equal the attachment of this poor brute to his master? even over the grave that contains his last remains, his faithful animal has been known to breathe his last, refusing all sustenance.

With what fidelity does he not accompany? with what constancy does he not follow, with what attention defend his master? what eagerness does he show to obtain his caresses, what docility in obeying him? what patience in suffering his bad humours, and his frequently unjust correction; what mildness and what humility in his endeavours to be restored to favour; what emotion, what anxiety, and what sorrow when his master is abroad, what joy when he returns! From all these circumstances is it possible not to distinguish friendship in him? He consults, interrogates, and beseeches his master; the glance of whose eye is sufficient; he understands the very signs of his will: without the voice of man, he possesses all the ardour of sentiment, and what is more, he has fidelity and constancy in his affections; no ambition, no interest, no desire of revenge, no fear but of displeasing his master; he is all zeal, all warmth, all obedience, and as furious against robbers and men of prey, as against devouring animals; he scents them afar off, he flies upon, wounds and tears them, and takes from them what they were endeavouring to steal; but content with having conquered, he rests himself on the spoils, will not touch them even to satisfy his appetite, and at once, gives an example of courage, temperance and fidelity. He has all the manners of the house in which he resides, and like other domestics, is disdainful with the great, and rustic in the country; he pays no attention to indifferent persons, and declares war against those whose stations make them importu-

nate; he knows them by their dress, their voice, their gestures, and prevents their approach. He is the only animal which has ever been put to the proof; the only one which knows his master and his friends, and is capable of distinguishing friends from foes; the only one when a stranger arrives which knows and perceives it; the only one which knows his own name, and the domestic call; the only one which has not confidence in himself alone; the only one that, when he has lost his master and cannot find him, calls him by his lamentations; the only one that, in a long journey, a journey perhaps he has never been but once, will remember the way, and find the road; in fact, of all animals, the Dog is the most susceptible of impressions, and most easily taught by moral causes; he is also, above all other creatures, most subject to the variety and other alterations caused by physical influences. The alteration of the colour of Dogs, their shape and size by the change of climate, is truly wonderful. M. de Buffon assures us that the Shepherd's Dog transported to the north, becomes a Dane, and into the southern climates becomes a Greyhound. The large Dane transported into Ireland, becomes a large Irish Dog, and in point of size, surpasses all the rest of the species. The English Bull Dog, transported into Denmark, becomes a small Dane, and this when transported into warm climates, loses its hair, entirely, and becomes the naked Turk Dog. All these races, he further assures us, with their varieties, have been produced solely by the influence of the climate joined to the effect of their food.

He also informs us that the Greyhound and the Shepherd's Dog, have produced the mongrel Greyhound, which is called the Greyhound with Wolfs cloathing, of this mongrel he adds the snout is not so slender as that of the Turkish Greyhound, which is very rare in France.

The large Dane and the large Spaniel, have together produced the Dog of Calabria, which is a handsome Dog with long thick hair, and taller than the larger Mastiff.

The Spaniel and the Terrier produce a kind of Dog, which is called the Burgundy Spaniel; the Spaniel and the little Dane produce the Lion Dog, which is very scarce.

The Dogs with long, fine, and curled hair, which are called Dogs of Burgos, and which are of the size of the largest Barbets, come from the large Spaniel and the Barbet.

The little Barbet comes from the small Spaniel and the Barbet.

The Bull Dog with the Mastiff produces a mongrel which is called the strong Bull Dog, and is much larger than the real one, and approaches it more than the Mastiff.

The Pug Dog comes from the English Bull Dog and the little Dane.

All these races are simple Mongrels, and come from the mixture of two pure races; but there are also other Dogs that may be called double Mongrels, because they come from a pure race and one already mixed.

The Dog of Alicant, is a double Mongrel, which comes from the Pug and the little Spaniel.

The Shock Dog, is also a double Mongrel, which comes from the Pug and the small Dane.

The Maltese, or Lap Dog, is a double Mongrel, and comes from the small Spaniel and the Barbet.

The Compiler thinks it necessary to give Doctor Caius's systematical arrangement of British Dogs. This gentleman was a physician in Queen Elizabeth's reign.

Dr. CAIUS's systematical Arrangement of BRITISH DOGS.

- I. The most generous kinds.
  - Dogs of Chace.
    - Hounds.
      - Terrier,
      - Harrier,
      - Bloodhound.
    - Gazehound,
    - Greyhound,
    - Leviner, or Lyemmer,
    - Tumbler.
  - Fowlers.
    - Spaniel,
    - Setter,
    - Water Spaniel, or Finder.
  - Lap.
    - Spanish Gentle, or Comforter.
- II. Farm Dogs.
  - Shepherds' Dog,
  - Mastiff, or Ban Dog.
- III. Mongrels.
  - Wappe,
  - Turnspit,
  - Dancer.

MANAGEMENT and BREEDING of DOGS.

THERE is not any circumstance that requires more circumspection in the management of Sporting Dogs than the breeding of them; it calls on us to pay the strictest attention to it, particularly if we are fond of Shooting, and a neglect thereof at the period that it becomes necessary to put a Dog to a Bitch, indicates a distaste for the Sport, and the consequences that follow are deservedly incurred. Indeed, it may be justly observed, that a negligence at this particular time, accounts, in a great measure, for the quantities of bastards, and the dwindled breed of Pointers and Setters we may daily notice, which have been allowed to creep amongst us, and would in a short time (were it not from the circumspection and attention of steady Sportsmen in breeding) leave very few thorough bred Dogs in the kingdom.

When a Bitch is become proud, (or in more sporting terms) at heat, she should that moment be secured in a place where it would be impossible for any Dog to get at her, but such as the owner likes: sometimes the master leaves her to the care of his servant, who perhaps, as he is not a Sportsman, will say to himself, "I shall not gain any thing by keeping her secure, nor shall I participate in the sport," and therefore takes no trouble about the matter, leaving her entirely to chance, tied up in a stable; and it unfortunately happens, that if a Bitch goes to heat at a time when the season is gone by, that if the owner is not very keen, she is then surely neglected, the season to come not being considered; therefore every Sportsman should take care of his dogs and his guns with the same nicety as if the season were to commence the following day.

It will be proper, when a Bitch is in this situation, to keep her locked up, and to keep the key yourself, if you will only consider the shortness of time it will require your attention, and the good that will inevitably be the result of such care will, I am certain, make you exact and careful, not allowing any person to feed her but yourself, for fear of accidents. A Bitch always gives warning of her coming into season, and then the time of her being at heat lasts either longer or shorter, according to her age; for a young one remains much longer proud than an old one, the former remaining in that situation for three weeks, sometimes longer; the latter seldom longer than a fortnight. The

Compiler knew a gentleman, who had a favourite Bitch at heat, and to put her in a place of safety, placed her in a loft, to which there was no access but by a ladder, several feet in height; in coming down he left the ladder at the door, supposing her to be safe, but the next morning on going up with a favourite Dog to line her, he found, to his great astonishment, that a Terrier had climbed up the ladder, and the Bitch afterwards proved with young by him. The first symptom of a Bitch becoming proud is the swelling of her *box or sheath*, which, as she advances, becomes of a reddish colour; besides you will observe her mounting the dogs, and shewing every wish for copulation. If you are so situated as not to be able to secure her as you wish, and you do not like that she should have a Dog, a red hot iron placed on her box for a second, so as to make it sore, will be the most effectual method to prevent her taking the Dog; for the moment he touches or licks her box, it will cause great pain, and she will certainly drive him away. I shall now proceed to direct what kind of Dog you should give your Bitch, and also what the Bitch ought to be, which you intend breeding from, with other necessary directions.

The Bitch to breed from, must be high and well bred; take care she is strong and well proportioned in all her parts, her ribs large, and flanks wide, accompanied with beauty and swiftness; when you have such a one as is here described, and you wish to breed from her, give her a Pointer whose legs are as

straight as arrows, with feet round and small, high nuckles, his shoulders well back, chest deep, and breast rather wide than narrow, his back broad, especially over the loins, his neck thin, his head of a middling size, and the larger and wider his nostrils the better, his jaws wide, his stern well set on, tapering and fine towards the end; as to his colour, I shall not take upon me to recommend it, as I leave that entirely to fancy; but with respect to the size and age, it will be neccssary to say a few words; I do not, by any means, advise any sportsman to breed too early, for it certainly tears Bitches to pieces, and they are much weakened by it; but if you are determined to breed from a young Bitch, an old Dog will be as good as a young one; but if your Bitch is old you, must put her to a young Dog, and must form a judgment as to the size; a small slight Bitch should have a large boney Dog, and if she is low in stature, the Dog may be the contrary. There is one danger attending the putting of an old Dog to a Bitch, but which may be obviated from experience; when the Bitch is young, the Whelps that are produced from an old Dog, will participate of the dull and heavy nature generally attendant upon old age; but this seldom happens, except the Dog is extremely old, and in that case the Whelps will be very small, therefore it would be very wrong to try the experiment; let the Dog and Bitch you breed from not have the smallest affinity to each other; for although some sportsmen are fond of giving the brother to the sister, the father

to the daughter, and the mother to the son, though from the result, capital Dogs have been produced, yet nature seems to forbid such a connection, and those who have tried this experiment, allow that these Dogs bred from again, ultimately dwindle very much; this mode of breeding is termed by sportsmen, *breeding in and in,* a circumstance that should never be practised, nor do I advise it on any account whatever.

When you put the Dog to your Bitch, do not let him remain with her after he has lined her once, for his performing once will be as effectual as if he did it ten times, and the Bitch will be off her heat sooner. Some at first will not take the Dog, in that case it will not be amiss to keep them together for some time, which, from his teazing, will bring her forward, or by scratching her eight or ten times with a currycomb or your fingers, from her stern up to the middle of her back against her hair, it will tend to excite her to take the Dog. However it is a bad method to use any violence or art, therefore let nature take it's course. As soon as your Bitch is lined and off her heat, you ought not to hunt her; but if you are necessitated to do so, let it be for not more than three weeks, as a Bitch taken out in this way often, prevents other Dogs from hunting, in consequence of making them follow her from the smell of her box; it will be adviseable in this case, to daub her box well with tar, which will prevent and kill by its strong scent, the smell produced by the virulence of the Bitch's heat, and will not induce the Dogs to follow her.

As many Sportsmen are anxious to breed from particular Dogs or Bitches, in the list of receipts one will be found which will not fail to bring a Bitch to heat at any time or season which may be wished for, and the same given to the Dog, will instantly make him copulate, although, perhaps, he may have been averse to it before, and it will not in the smallest degree injure them.*

A Bitch generally goes with whelp nine weeks, perhaps a day more or less When she is near the time of pupping she should have some warm milk or broth to assist nature, be kept quiet, and on no acccount be disturbed; nor should any person go near her for at least eighteen hours, as some Bitches are a long time whelping.

A particular friend of the Compiler's had a beautiful Bitch which was pupping, and he became so anxious to see her and the puppies, that all remonstrance made to him not to disturb her were vain, he went in at least twelve hours after she pupped, when he found four puppies, which he brought out to show to some friends, the mother following; and after having returned them, she, before morning, pupped four more, which was considered rather a singular occurrence.

Great care should be observed, not to handle the puppies but as seldom as possible; it checks their growth, and injures them very much.

* For the manner of spaying Bitches, see receipts.

The number of puppies is very uncertain, some Bitches have more, some less. A gentleman at Clifton, near Bristol, had a Greyhound Bitch, that in the year 1797, had sixteen puppies, all alive and well. When your Bitch is near pupping, if you mean to keep them all, you should look out for a Bitch that will whelp at the same time, in order that you may draw some of the puppies from your own Bitch to place to the other. It is not reckoned an uncommon thing, and it frequently happens, where Sportsmen breed Dogs extensively, that they keep two or three (or perhaps more) mongrel Bitches, to come in season with their sporting ones, to enable them to rear some of their sporting Puppies, for five or six at most are enough for any Bitch, let her be ever so good a nurse. If you draw the Puppies from the sporting Bitch to put to the Mongrel, it will be necessary to rub a little of the Mongrel's milk over the strange Puppies, or else she will in all likelihood forsake them, and this method will be a certain plan to make her take to them directly; but if you are drawing puppies to destroy them, and you should be at a loss which to reserve for yourself, the following plan will be the surest and best to pursue: Take the puppies from their litter, to the distance of eight or ten yards, and the mother will directly come and take them one after another in her mouth back to her bed, those she takes first you must keep, according to the number you want. The Bitch when she pups, must not be shut up or confined, but must be allowed the liberty to go in

and come out as she pleases, to eat grass, or to do any thing she thinks necessary: recollect you must never leave her or the puppies in a stable for several good reasons; for, the puppies in crawling about, or when they are able to run, will be getting into the litter, and are liable to be killed or disabled by horses treading on them; indeed no dogs should on any account be kept in a stable, for they are liable to a thousand accidents; the groom in pulling out the litter from under the manger at night, which he generally does with a pitch-fork, may by accident run it into a Dog, and it need not be necessary to take any pains to persuade a sportsman that as long as a dog lies in the litter under a horse, the horse will not lie down, let him be ever so fatigued; besides, the offensive smell that dogs make in a stable, prevents horses from thriving.

In about nine days puppies begin first to open their eyes, this is the time most proper for drawing their tails, and giving them their proper length, which, if performed at this period, will always cause them to look well, and the surest and safest method to adopt will be the following: Take one of the hind legs of the puppy, and drawing it gently so as to extend it without endangering the limb, (which, at this time is but gristle, and easily put out or broken) lay the stern along the leg, and a quarter of an inch below the first joint put your thumb nail and first finger, by pressing your thumb nail, and twisting the stern round, giving it a gentle pull, you will find, on drawing it, a

long sinew come out; you need not anoint or rub it with any thing, as the Bitch will lick and clean it, which will be the most sovereign remedy for its cure; if dogs have their sterns cut at any period with a knife or scissors, they will always look badly; but recollect the appearance of them will be greatly affected by deferring this operation; the consequence of leaving a dog with his stern on until he gets old before it is cut, is, it will be always sore, and the bushes, as he goes through them, will keep it constantly raw. The variety that puppies undergo from the time they are whelped until they attain the age of seven months, is numerous and wonderful.

If you wish to have a puppy like the sire or dam, always remember to choose a dog from the bitch, and a bitch from the dog, although M. de Buffon pretends to assure us that it is always the case that male puppies resemble the dog, and the female the bitch; but experience and observation will confute these assertions; he still goes on, and quotes a more absurd circumstance. He says, in breeding, it does not signify what dog a bitch gets, and that the Hound, the Setting Dog, and the Terrier, are only one and the same race of dogs; for he has remarked, that the birth has produced Setting Dogs, Terriers, and Hounds, though the Hound Bitch has only been lined by one of those three dogs.

It certainly is not to be disputed but that M. de Buffon was a wonderful clever and intelligent person; but how he came to

quote such a circumstance as this, is not to be accounted for, except, perhaps, he was only told so; we are all at liberty to beleive it, if we please, but all he ever said or wrote on the subject now in question, is certainly not to believed. If these three different kinds were brought forth, there does not remain the least shadow of doubt but that the Terrier and Setting Dog got at the Hound Bitch and lined her; but perhaps, as has been already observed, she was entrusted to the servant's care, and he neglected her, but told his master that a Setting Dog only lined her.

The following fact certainly came within the Compiler's own knowledge: A Pointer bitch was lined first by a Terrier, and afterwards by a Greyhound, the produce was two Pointers, two Terriers, and two Greyhounds, which resembled their respective species, as if they had been distinctly bred from them, and the Greyhounds and Pointers turned out to be capital dogs.

When your puppies begin to lap, you should give them new milk from the cow, twice a day at least; you need not be under any apprehension of their injuring the Bitch by remaining too long with her, for she will drive them away herself; it will be proper, at this time, to wash her dugs with warm vinegar, or brandy and water, once a day for a week, which will draw them up and tuck them in; and also to give her some sulphur in new milk to cleanse her; an ounce divided into four doses will be sufficient, a quarter of an ounce each day. After the puppies

are taken or drawn from the bitch, they should have three gentle purging balls, and plenty of whey the day following: previous to your hunting the bitch she must be bled. When the puppies begin to get older you will perceive by their growth whether they are out at the elbows or not, they that are so you ought not to keep; keeping them confined, and not allowing them their liberty, is the means and cause of their being so.

Whelps pupped in January and February, are preferable to those whelped later in the year ; for although they are more difficult to rear, by reason of the cold, that season being an enemy to all young creatures, for want of warmth, many of them die at their nurseries; but the whelps which get over these difficulties, come well in the following season, and are generally hardy and handsome.

About the time of separating the puppies from the bitch, will be the best to have them wormed.*

It is a very mistaken notion, although believed by many sportsmen, that the worming of dogs prevents their going mad, which is as ridiculous as the assertion is false.

The use of worming dogs is, that it certainly prevents their biting and tearing things, which they are so apt to do when puppies, and it is certain, that it prevents their biting if they should happen to go mad. Sportsmen who value their dogs highly,

* For the manner of Worming, see receipts.

ought to have a mark by which (if they should be stolen and advertised) they may be found; the best method for this purpose, will be to brand them on the side with a red hot iron, with the initials of their names, just at this period, which neither art or time can ever obliterate, and will probably be the surest means of recovering them.

When you place your puppies out at nurse, always give directions that they may be fed entirely on milk and potatoes, or potatoes and salt mixed, which will be the means of preserving them, in a great measure, from the distemper for it is from high feeding, and neglect, that this most horrid of all dog disorders, springs.

When they attain the age of eight or nine months they may be indulged with some flesh, but it should be well boiled; they should have sulphur once a week, given in a little milk, should frequently be washed all over with soap and water to kill the fleas and cleanse their skin, which will also cause them to thrive; their straw should be often changed, and every attention of this kind paid them at that age, which will bring them to a proper size.

Young puppies are frequently troubled with lice, the surest method of freeing them from these, is to rub them all over with trooper's ointment.*

The accidents that occur to a litter of puppies from the period of their being whelped until their arriving at perfection, that is

* See receipts.

to say, at being compleat dogs, are numerous and dangerous; the number of hardships they have to encounter, and the sickness they have to risque, would be too much to be here inserted; but every Sportsman may think himself singularly lucky indeed, if out of a belly of whelps, consisting of nine or ten, he gets three or four which come to perfection.

The Compiler has here annexed a breeding journal, which every Sportsman that breeds should have; it will not only prevent his breeding too near, but he will also be enabled to see how his dogs are bred, what nurseries they are at, their age, and their parents; and finally it should be observed to every Sportsman to avoid, as much as possible, naming a dog with a name ending in O, as Ponto, and for this reason; as *toho,* is an expression so prevalent and generally made use of by sportsmen, dog teachers, &c. when they intend he should keep his ground, when he has found his game, by calling either Cato, Carlo, Sancho, or any of these names ending in O, it is often the means of deceiving and puzzling him, and he often mistakes his business.

THE POINTER.

THE gentleness, docility, and even the timidity of the Pointer, are the most convincing proofs of the great perfection it has acquired, by the careful education bestowed on it by men.

M. de Buffon considers the Shepherd's Dog to be the origin of all Dogs, as he asserts, he is naturally the most sensible of all the dog kind; from this assertion, are we confident that the Pointer comes from the Shepherd's Dog? The only circumstance that give us any justifiable reason for supposing this to be true, is, that there is a very remarkable singularity in the feet of the Shepherd's Dog, which may be also seen frequently in Pointers, Setters and Spaniels; this singularity is called by many a *duclaw*,* some have a single, and others, double *duclaws*, though they seem not to be of any use; they appear to be destitute of

* By some called water claw.

muscles, and hang dangling at the hind part of the leg more like an unnatural excrescence than a necessary part of the animal. When these appear on Pointers, or any sporting dogs, they are generally taken off when puppies; however, it should not generally be adopted, for the adage, that "Nature has made nothing in vain," ought to correct our decision on their utility, which probably may exist, though unknown to us. Some sportsmen find fault with these *duclaws* becoming sore, if the dog be severely hunted, which causes him to be lame.

Of Pointers there are two kinds, the English and the Spanish; their great utility and excellence for shooting Partridges, Moor, or Heath Game, make them worthy of our regard. There are at the present day a great variety of both these kinds, with respect to size, shape, and colour; some are good and others bad of each sort, so that it is not to be wondered at, that there should exist so many different opinions concerning them. The Pointer mostly approved of, is neither large nor small, but between both, well made, active, light and strong, this is the dog that will bear a vast deal of hunting; a small one although he may be ever so good in his kind, can be but of little service in hunting; particularly in long stiff Stubbles, a strong piece of Turnips, or deep and heavy mountains, where the Heath is strong and long, and deep ruts are constantly met with; and the feet of a large heavy dog will be soon tired, by his own weight.

With respect to the Spanish Pointer, he is of foreign origin, as is name seems to imply, but is now naturalized in this country, which has long been famous for dogs of this description; the greatest attention being paid to preserve the breed by many sportsmen, and those who have paid due attention to it, have been recompenced, by preserving the breed in the utmost purity. This Dog is remarkable for the aptness and facility with which it receives instruction: indeed it may be said to be self-taught. The English Pointer on the contrary, is very difficult to be broke in, the greatest attention being necessary to compleat his education. A cross between these, produces capital dogs, which are much esteemed for their goodness. The Spanish Pointer cannot undergo the fatigues of an extensive range, nor is he so durable and hardy as the English. There are few parts of the world where there are so great a variety, or so many good sporting dogs as in Great Britain, as they are brought to that perfection which is hardly to be described. Respecting the colour of Pointers, (as before observed) a great deal depends entirely on fancy, but that most esteemed, is the liver and white, although there are as good dogs of every other colour; indeed there is hardly a colour but some reason may be assigned for its being either good or bad. A white dog is to be preferred on two accounts: the first is, being all white, he is void of any thing phlegmatic in his constitution, which does not hinder him from retaining the lesson he has been taught,

and prevent his being obedient; besides, he has, always a good nose. Secondly, in Grouse shooting, he can be discerned at any distance, whereas a brown one cannot: a white Pointer, if good, is a treasure to a keen sportsman. Pointers of a lemon, or Setters of a red, or chesnut colours, are always the most difficult to be brought to obedience, by reason of the billious humour which prevails in them, and which causes this irregularity. The white Pointer is full of stratagems and cunning, and is not so easily tired. as dogs of the lemon colour, which are very giddy and impatient; as choler is the most predominant humour in them, it, in some measure, accounts for their being so; they are very uneasy under correction, and are certainly more subject to diseases than any other dogs. Pointers of a brown colour, are generally good ones; but one great objection to this colour is, they are difficult to be seen on a mountain, and are sometimes lost, which gives the sportsman a vast deal of trouble before he can discover them; but let any sportsman be asked if he has not remarked, that a brown coloured dog will bring him closer to game than any other, by reason that they are not so easily perceived by the birds or game, as one of a white or any other colour. The Compiler from many years experience, is confident, a sportsman will get more shots with a brown Dog, than one of any o her colour, and has found him to be very useful when birds become shy, and the season is far advanced.

With respect to wild unthinking Sportsmen, and very fleet unsteady Pointers, Mr. Taplin in his Sporting Dictionary, very deservedly censures these wild gunners; he says, "The impatient volatility of some men, probably prompted them to indulge a design of introducing a breed of Pointers, with speed sufficient to outstrip the rapidity of their own imaginations, that they might enjoy the unprecedented and supreme felicity of *hunting and shooting* at the same time."

Let it be always remembered, that the sportsman who breaks his own Pointers and Setters, is rewarded well for his trouble, as he will have a decided superiority in the field over the sportsmen that do not.

When you have made choice of a young Pointer, that in every respect answers to what I have before described, it will be necessary to begin to teach, or break him in, at the age of from nine to twelve months. A young Pointer should not be broken in too early, for fear of his being chest-foundered, a circumstance that commonly follows, when dogs are broken in too young. He should be first taught to crouch, and lie down at command, and not dare to stir from that position until he is ordered; he will soon be brought to this by gentle correction when he disobeys; and he should be always rewarded when he does right: continue, if you can, always to give him his lesson before feeding time, and never feed him but when he deserves it; this will

always teach him to do well for the sake of his victuals; you should not allow any person to interfere with you in breaking your own dog, for two masters breed a confusion; always be careful to use the same words in your lessons, and select those that are most plain in their sound, and most distinct from one another, which do not alter on any account; for your dog being guided wholly by the sound, and not at all by the sense, any alteration in them, though the change be into words of the same meaning, will confound him. The words *down and close,* are short and expressive; and none other need be made use of when he is ordered to crouch. The sound, or word of correction, is next to be taught him; for it seldom happens, when you give him his lessons, but that you will find faults committed, and none should you allow to escape without correction; in this case, the word *Sirrah*, spoke sharp and with anger, will be always understood by him; words of encouragement must be also taught him, such as *Good Boy*, or the like, at the same time he should be clapped on the back, you must also teach him words of advice, such as *take heed,* which will put him in mind of his business, put him on his guard, and make him diligent, he will also by this treatment become useful and cunning, and at the same time, chearful and pleasant within himself; knowing that he is doing his master a pleasure. Always allow a young Pointer, (or indeed any young dog) his liberty; if he is kept confined, he will

get out at the elbows, weak and bandy; it will be proper to allow him to follow when you walk out. After you have brought him under proper subjection, you ought, by all means, to take him out with an old staunch dog; but do not allow him, at this time, to hunt too severely; the old one will give him a notion of beating and ranging his ground, and when you are at leisure teach him to crouch to a piece of bread, or any thing else, to bring him under command; or when he is feeding, stop him, and do not allow him to touch his mess untill you direct him to do so; when you think he has waited long enough, speak kindly to him, and encourage him; if he does not obey, speak roughly to him, and check him; use him always to obey your whistle, or the motion of your hand, in preference to your voice; for the more silent you are in the field, at all times, the better; feed him always yourself, and constantly after his lessons, which will seem to him a reward, will endear you to him, and make him fond of you; but never overfeed him.

Whenever you take him out, put some string round his neck, which will in some measure bring him to bear the chain and couples; never suffer him to go too far from you, allow him to go a little before, making him always come behind you, or close to your heels, at the words *back, heel,* or *hem:* Train him thus, until by continual lessons, his attention is always on you, to know what he is to do.

It is most adviseable that a pistol, or gun, should frequently be fired over him, in order to make him know the shot; for many young dogs, on the report of a gun, are so alarmed, that they run away; and with the greatest difficulty only, after a length of time, are brought to be reconciled to it. For, by this method, you will make him steady on the shot, particularly, if when you fire, you make him lie down close, calling to him, *down, shot, and load,* and enforcing obedience; for it is certain, every Sportsman will allow, that a Pointer who breaks away at shot, is not worth feeding; for he not only spoils your sport, but also ruins your other dogs, and teaches them bad habits.

A circumstance of considerable importance to every sportsman, generally occurs at the period of breaking in young dogs, which is, that of killing and hunting sheep and fowls; the most effectual mode of breaking a dog liable to these practices, will be in the former instance, by coupling the dog to a stout ram, and to flog him well, till he cries out, which will alarm the ram so as to make him run off and drag the dog after him, and probably by this rough usage, may entice the dog to bite him, in order to extricate himself; the ram on this, will make use of violent efforts, and will commence by butting him severely with his horns, which will terrify the dog, and most likely deter him from ever even looking at sheep in future. Respecting the breaking them of killing fowl, the following method will be found the best: take a cleft stick, at one end of

it, tie a live fowl, and put the dog's tail in the cleft at the other; be sure to tie his tail in it very tight, so as to cause him some pain, and as you let him go, give him three or four smacks of the whip, and he will not fail to run off, by reason of the pain produced by the tightness of the cord, and conceiving it is caused by the fowl; when he gets tired he will stop, then untying the stick from his tail, beat him well about the head with the fowl once or twice; this you may be certain will be sufficient to prevent his ever touching a fowl again. The great injury a dog receives by being allowed to kill fowl, is, that it commonly makes him hard-mouthed, and apt to *break* his game.

Some young Pointers begin to hunt earlier than others, many are so long before they even take the smallest notice of game, that their owners often give them away as useless, but frequently dogs thus disposed of, turn out to be good ones; and it is generally remarked by sportsmen, that those dogs that remain so long without shewing any inclination to notice game, and are the most difficult to break in, are always the best when they once begin to hunt, and become staunch.

When your young Pointers (or dogs) begin to hunt, and you perceive they know their game, you had better hunt them by themselves; it is easier to stop them than when in company; as when other dogs are in the field with them, it makes them more eager and capricious; they will, by symptoms of waving their sterns, shew you that they have got the scent; but care must be

taken not to stop them too soon, as it will be necessary to allow them for some time to chase the game, previous to stopping them, particularly if it were long before they began to notice them. It is not by any means difficult to stop any kind of dog after game, especially a well bred Pointer or Setter. You will find by experience, that when a young one chases his game, and begins to know what he is about, he will sometimes, on coming up to it, make a sudden stop, and then run in on the birds; at this time, therefore, it will be the most proper to begin to stop him, and you must not only exert yourself, but take every advantage you can in favour of the dog, such as taking the wind, and hunting him against it; and it will be a capital plan to take an old steady, staunch one with him, if the old dog finds the game first, let the young one spring it if you can, and in hunting, take care not to allow either of them to go out of the field before you, (or in sporting terms, *break field;)* when you cast him off to hunt either to the right or left, as your judgment and experience will decide, walk slowly, making the dog cross you backwards and forwards, hunting across the field from hedge to hedge, every now and then advancing yourself sixty or a hundred yards, always keeping the wind in his favour, and when you wish him to cross, make use of your hand, the less noise you make the steadier he will hunt, and will constantly look for the signal; whereas, if you hunt him with your voice, he will hear you, and scarcely ever turn to look for you, or at you.

In this manner, hunt the field regularly through, and you will be certain of finding birds, if there should be any there; there are some young Pointers that stop naturally, and require little trouble or breaking; but if your young dog, or old one, finds birds or game, and the young one attempts to chase (if you think he is advanced to that stage of his education, when he ought not to do so) bring him back to where the birds or game was sprung, and make him lie down, calling out *toho!* and checking him with rough words; if, after several times taking this trouble, you find him obstinate, you must correct him with the whip, and the degree of correction must be entirely adapted to the disposition of the dog, of which you will probably by this time be able to form some judgment; but remark, that a dog that does not bear the whip, is easily *cowed,* and this often makes young ones *blink* their game, and a dog that *blinks* his game can be of little use to any sportsman; this is most frequently caused by beating dogs severely, who become so frightened, at the very sound of your voice, as to make them lie down; what we call *blinking*, amongst sportsmen, is when a dog finds his game, and he is spoken to, he draws off and runs behind you, and often without being spoken to, on finding the game, comes in close to your heels; gentle means will be found always to have better effect than harsh. A sportsman should be very cool, especially in breaking young dogs; he will find himself always more successful in being so; and let every sportsman be cautious not to throw a stone at his

Dog; or to let any circumstance induce him to flog him with any instrument but a whip.

When your young Dog finds Game, which you will easily perceive, go up to him, walking slowly, but never run, for if he sees you run, it is natural for him to follow the example, and then he will spring the Birds; when you get up to him, and think you are near the Birds, if they lie and your Dog stands, walk round him, moving closer to him until you spring them; if he should then chace, he must be corrected as before described; by which, if he is of a good breed, you will most likely succeed in stopping him: If you find you have not conquered him, you must, when he next points, head him if possible, aud holding up the whip to him, and smacking it, call *down, toho;* if all this does not avail, you must have recourse to the *trash cord,* which is made as follows, and to be used as afterwards directed. Get a very large thick leather collar, with a strap and buckle, to fit the Dog's neck, then run two large nails through the leather on each side, and cover the heads of the nails with pieces of leather stitched over them to the collar; the points, on the inside, are to be blunted, and the length of them to be about an inch, that they may press against the dog's neck; there must be then a large hook, called a D, put over the collar, so as to admit of its slipping round it, then take about thirty or forty fathom of strong cord, to one end of which, fasten a spring swivel to catch in the D of the collar, and to the other a slip knot, putting the collar on the dog; when you are going to cast him

off, let him run with the line on the ground at his pleasure, procuring a strong peg or stick with a notch in it, to fasten the slip knot of the line round; thus equipped, when your dog points, make up to him, and getting hold of the cord, slip the knot round the peg, at the same time closing him, on which, if he should make a run in, and the cord is in your hand, just as he is at the end of it, give it a smart pull, this, joined with the force with which he is running, by the time he arrives at the end of the line, will give him a severe shock, and throw him, and the nails will enter his neck. A very few lessons of this kind, will prove the service it will be of to him. If he should not run in, and you can close him, leave the line on the ground, and sticking the peg fast with the slip knot round it, walk up to him; you will then have an opportunity of walking round him, and springing the birds, or if you choose, also of drawing a net, which is necessary to make every dog staunch; if you can have your dogs broke in a mountain, or to grous, they will have a superior advantage over all others, in point of range and goodness.

Young dogs are very apt to rake, that is, to keep their noses too long on the ground, scenting and puzzling, which is a very bad custom, and injurious to them; when you must have recourse to a puzzle pin, or peg, which is to be made in the following manner.

If dog-wood can be obtained, it is the best to make this peg with, a hoop stave is also excellent; the length should be about

ten or twelve inches, the part which comes under the dog's jaws should be about two inches broad, with a strap of leather like a very light collar, running horrizontally through it, and the pin should run taper to the end, with a gradual turn up, two holes being bored through it, under the part where the dog's tusks come over, so that a string of white horse-hide leather may be run up through them, placed over his tusks, and tied underneath; with this collar fastened on the dog, he may hunt, without the smallest detriment to his sense of smelling, and it will make him throw his head up well, and draw his game better; besides, if he is inclined to mouth it he will be prevented by the checks he will receive from the pin, when he forces it against the ground.

When you take young dogs out, you should always have some person to flog them, if they do not come to you when called, which will be much better than doing it yourself, as they will be the readier to come to you for protection; but if, on the contrary, you are in the habit of correcting them yourself, they will always slink away, being afraid to come near you, as a dog knows as well as his master, when he acts right or wrong, and you will find it difficult to get at him for correction, after doing it two or three times.

Always keep a young Pointer to his work, and be very strict with him, just as he is getting staunch, for the first season he is shot to, generally determines, either his being very good, very indifferent, or a bad one; it entirely depends at this period, on

the master, who cannot be too careful, and good tempered. Half the sporting dogs in this country, are ruined at this crisis; and, as Mr. Taplin justly observes, "young dogs having imbibed the principles upon which they are to act, have nature and their instructive impulse, to point out their practice when brought into the field." Juvenile gunners frequently spoil young dogs, by keeping them under as little restraint as they wish to be kept themselves; and too often let them break away out of all reasonable distance, till they acquire a habit of inattention, and disobedience, of which, some are with great difficulty, if ever, divested.

It is a very bad custom to use young dogs to hunt in company, until they have acquired the method of beating and finding their own game; for the consequence that generally follows, by their being too frequently hunted in company, is, that they acquire a method of following, and attending on old ones, well knowing they will be sure to find game first, and of course contract, by this way, very bad habits.* A Pointer cannot be too fast, if his nose is good; but many of the very swift dogs are sometimes apt to run over the game, whereas a dog that is steady and even rated, and that does not, perhaps, hunt altogether so fast, will make sufficient amends for his want of swiftness, by hunting more carefully, not passing by, or running in upon the birds; with

* With respect to the injury and consequence of such habits, refer to Capt. Baggot's dog *Nelson,* under the head of Shooting. See the Index. *Pointer.*

one of this description, under good command, and hunted by the hand only, a tolerable shot will kill more game, than a first rate one, with three brace of dogs, and a clamorous set of attendants.

In breaking young dogs, the compiler recommends making them always *clap*, or stand their ground, on first finding their game; it is not right, if the birds move, that the dog should attempt to do so, until his master comes, or desires him, for if he does, if the birds do not lie well on that day, when they see the dog following them, they will run, until at last they are forced to take wing; and on the contrary, if a dog stops or *claps*, supposing the birds are disturbed and run, they will soon stop again, not finding themselves pursued; for it may be remarked, and it is an incontrovertible fact, that if a dog rakes, and follows the birds, with his nose close to the ground, they will instantly take wing.

However, to conclude this subject, a well bred Pointer will point naturally, and will only require practice and attention from his master in his first season.

THE SETTER.

THE Setter is hardy, active, and handsome; its scent is exquisite; it ranges with great speed, and wonderful perseverance. Its sagacity in discerning the various kinds of game, and its caution in approaching or drawing it, are qualities truly astonishing. It is said, that Robert Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, was the first person that broke a Setting Dog to the net. Many sportsmen prefer the Pointer to the Setter, and in many opinions there will be found very little difference which of them is made use of, provided he is good of his kind; the Setter certainly goes much faster than the Pointer, and will do more work: in Grous shooting he is certainly to be preferred; but one great disadvantage to the Setter, is, that if the summer should be ver[y]

dry, he will not be able to hunt without water, which a Pointer does not require so much of, or so often. The Setter has a great advantage on the mountains or moors, in respect to his feet, as he has a quantity of hair round the balls, and a great deal between the toes, which prevents him from being sore-footed, or hurt by the heath, which cuts like wire. The Compiler will not take upon himself to say, which is superior as to the nose, but it is seldom found, that the Setter with the best nose, can retrieve a bird with a Pointer, and it is evident, that a Setter that has plenty of water on the mountains, will beat twice the ground that a Pointer can, and will stand work day after day. The high mettle of the Setter, is, in a great measure, the cause of the owner's being forced to go over the same task of breaking him in every season; but when he comes to be used for a length of time, he frequently loses a great deal of his wildness, and becomes steady; he requires more work, and more game to be killed to him to steady him than Pointers. There is not a country in Europe that can boast of finer Setters than Ireland, they are there called *English Spaniels*, and differ widely from the Setters of England and Scotland; they are not esteemed in Ireland, unless their colour be either a deep chesnut and white, or all red; a black and white Setter, or any colour but red, or red and white, would not be looked upon or reputed well bred, allowing them to be ever so good. It matters not whether they are all red, or red and white, but those esteemed most, have a

black nose, and a black roof to their mouth, as most sportsmen conceive the black nose to be finer and superior to any other: *Sir William Barker, Mr. Oliver,* of *Castle Oliver, Mr. M'Carthy,* of *Spring House,* and many other gentlemen in *Ireland,* have the most beautiful and steady of this kind. A circumstance occurred with respect to the steadiness and discipline of some of this breed, which the Compiler was an eye witness to: *Colonel M'Donald,* being on a visit at *Mr. Oliver's,* during the Grousing season, and going out one day, took with him five brace of Setters; on getting to the mountains, one of the dogs found some birds, all the rest backed in at once; upon which, *Col. M'Donald* called to the last dog to take the lead, and in that manner he drew the dogs alternately, until the last become first, and fixed the birds, which had run nearly a mile. These dogs in general fetch a long price; *Mr. M'Carthy* got two hundred guineas for a brace of them, and a gentleman in the north of Ireland, was known once to have given for a dog and bitch of this sort, to his tenant, the renewal of a lease of a farm, for nine hundred and ninety-nine years, which, if the lease had expired, would have cleared to the landlord above two hundred and fifty pounds a year; the Compiler himself sold a brace of Setters, in the year 1801, for two hundred guineas, to a *Captain Bagot.*

In the north of England, and in Yorkshire, there are very good Setters to be found; the colour most esteemed there, is black and white, but they are to be found of all colours, and in

general very staunch and good. A breed between a Pointer and a Setter, is deemed by some, to be a good cross; but I never saw one of them that was worth much: they are, by sportsmen, termed *Droppers,* and what is very remarkable, if they are tolerably good themselves, their breed falls off wonderfully. Setters. if they are good, ought to perform the business of a Cocking Spaniel, of which there are few in Ireland. The difference between the Setter and the Pointer, when compared together, is the same as that between the Beagle and the Fox Hound; or the draft Horse and race Horse; no doubt the Setter will last longer, and beat almost double the ground the Pointers can: as to breaking them, the same mode may be practised as with Pointers. I will now conclude this subject, with the following beautiful quotation from Somerville:—

" When Autumn smiles, all-beauteous in decay,
" And paints each chequer'd grove with various hues,
" My Setter ranges in the new-shorn fields,
" His nose in air erect; from ridge to ridge
" Panting he bounds, his quarter'd ground divides
" In equal intervals, nor careless leaves
" One inch untried: At length the tainted gales
" His nostrils wide inhale; quick joy elates
" His beating heart, which, aw'd by discipline
" Severe, he dares not own, but cautious creeps,
" Low-cow'ring step by step; at last attains
" His proper distance; there he stops once,
" And points with his instructive nose upon
" The trembling prey. On wings of wind upborne,
" The floating-net unfolded flies; then drops,
" And the poor fluttering captives rise in vain.

THE SPANIEL; OR COCKER.

AS to the Spaniel, there is not any person who has given so correct a description of him as *Mr. Chas. Street*, who asserts, that the following kinds were formerly made use of: the Springing, Hawking Spaniel, or Starter, and the Cocker, or Cocking Spaniel; the first was used for springing the game, when falconry was amongst the prevalent sports of this island, and as it made one of the principal pursuits of our British ancestors, the chieftains maintained a considerable number of birds for that purpose.

The discovery of the gun, superceding the use of the Falcon, the powers of the Dog were directed to the new acquisition; but his fleetness, wildness, and courage, in quest of game, rendering him difficult to be managed, a more useful kind was established,

with shorter limbs, and less speed; yet some of the true Springers still remain about London, but are rarely found in any other part of the country; these are little different from the larger Spaniel, or Setter, excepting in size; generally of a red, or red and white colour, thinly formed, ears rather short, long limbed, the coat waving and silky, the tail somewhat bushy, and seldom cut. Differing from this is the *Cocker*, esteemed for his compact form, having the head round, nose short, ears long, and the larger the more admired; limbs short and strong, the coat more inclined to curl than the Springers, and longer, particularly on the tail, which is commonly *truncated:* colour, liver and white, red, red and white, black and white, all liver colour, and sometimes black, with tanned legs and muzzle.

From the great similarity of *some Cockers* to the Water Spaniel, both in person and disposition, little doubt can be entertained but that *such* are derived from him and the Springer; some of the strongest of this kind are found in Sussex, and called Sussex Spaniels. Another variety of Cocker, much smaller, is the Marlborough breed, kept by his Grace the Duke of Marlborough; these are red and white, with very round heads, blunt noses, and highly valued by sportsmen.

Our unfortunate monarch, Charles I. was much attached to Spaniels, and had always some of his favourites about him; but these do not appear to have been the small black kind, known by his name, but *Cockers,* as is evident from the pictures of

Vandyke, and the print by Sir Robert Strange, after this master, of three of his children, in which they are introduced.

The term Cocker, is taken from the Woodcock, which they are taught to hunt; but, as all sportsmen know, it is singular that no sporting dog will *flush* Woodcocks, till inured to the scent, and trained to the sport, which they then pursue with vehemence and transport; though they hunt Partridges and Pheasants as it were by instinct, yet will hardly touch their bones when offered as food, but turn from them with abhorrence, even when they are hungry; nor would a mongrel dog, though remarkable for finding that sort of game; but when offered to two Chinese dogs, they devoured them most greedily, and licked the platter clean. Now that dogs should not be fond of the bones of such birds as they are not disposed to hunt, is no wonder, but why they reject, and do not care to eat their natural game, is not so easily accounted for, since the end of hunting seems to be, that the chase pursued should be eaten.

Dogs will not devour the more rancid water fowls, nor indeed the bones of any wild fowls; nor will they touch the fœtid bodies of birds that feed on offal and garbage; and there may be somewhat of providential instinct in this circumstance of dislike; for Vultures, Kites, Ravens, Crows, &c. were certainly intended to be messmates with dogs over their carrion, and seem to be appointed by nature, as fellow scavengers, to remove cadaverous nuisances from the face of the earth.

I may say the Spaniel possesses the soul of the chace, madly pursues the object which cannot be reached by its limited powers, triumphs when it tumbles from its aerial height, revels awhile till motion ceases, but leaves it untasted to him, who adds to his sport, the gratification of appetite.

Spaniels are used as Finders, or Starters to Greyhounds, and pursue the hare with the same impetuosity they do birds. Their beautiful coats, their faithful dispositions, humble and insinuating manners, suavity and obedience, even to servility, prove their universal favour; but the gunner loves them for their intrinsic merit, bestows great pains on training these to the gun, and when properly broken or educated, is amply repaid by their services, being indefatigable in their exertions, beating the coverts, brakes, and ditches, in pursuit of game; their tails carried downwards, perpetually moving from side to side, and the motion called *feathering** becomes more rapid when they have caught the scent, eagerly following with frequent whimpers, till it is disturbed, of which they give notice by repeated *quests;* nor should they open at any other time; many sportsmen disapprove of their *questing* at all, as it spreads the alarm too far, therefore teach them to beat mute.

——— "My Spaniels beat,
"Puzzling the entangled copse; and from the brake
"Push forth the whirring Pheasant."

* An expression made use of by sportsmen, when a dog's hair on his back, from the shoulder to the stern, stands up like pig's bristles.

As it is the nature of these dogs to put up all the game they find, good sportsmen are careful to keep them within gun shot, even in cover, and if it be extensive, jingles or bells are fastened to their collars, and the dog-call used if they beat too wide; those that are wild and riotous should have one of their fore legs buckled up, between the collar and their neck, till they are more steady. They pursue without preference, the Hare, Pheasant, Woodcock, Snipe, Partridge, Quail, all water fowl, and most birds; and are in general fond of the water, and easily taught to bring the game to their master. If taken out with Pointers, they should be led in a line, while the Pointers are acting, lest, by running in on the game, when the Pointers stand, they hurry them from their point, and make them unsteady; but they are useful to recover such wounded birds as take to running, especially Pheasants. They are more subject to certain diseases than other dogs, as loss of smell, swelling of the glands in the neck, which sometimes prevents their taking any sustenance till they die; disease on the ears like the mange, called *formicæ*;* and lastly, to the mange† itself, which is most destructive of all to their beauty and quiet. They are sometimes crossed with the Pointer, some of the puppies take after the Spaniel, and some after the Pointer, but have little to recommend them.‡

* Formicæ. For cure, see receipts. † Mange. For cure, see receipts.

‡ For more on Spaniels, see shooting.

THE GROUS.

THERE are several kinds of Grous, but the only one that will be noticed in this work, is that which is the most common, and in general followed by sportsmen, and which comes under the description of the red Grous. The male weighs from eighteen to nineteen ounces, the female about fifteen. It is much larger than the Partridge; the plumage is a mixture of red and white, forming a darkish brown, and the tail is like the Partridge's, but larger, the legs are cloathed to the very toe nails, with small white and brown feathers, but this only happens when the birds are very old, although it does in a small degree in the *Poults,* which are so termed the first year; the outer and inner toes are connected to the first joint of the middle toe, by a small membrane, the

bill is short, arched, and of a blackish colour, the eyes being encircled with a large red eye-brow, are composed of a fleshy membrane, rounded and pinked on the upper part, and extending beyond the crown of the head, each feather is marked with several transverse bars of black, and on the middle of it is a large black spot. The plumage of the hen has less of the red, and more of the white than the cock; the membrane of the eye-brow is less projected, less pinked, and not of so bright a red. Grous generally begin to pair in January; if the weather is severe, at that time they collect in great numbers, sometimes amounting to forty brace. A person who takes care of *Lord Lowther's* mountains, near *Highborough bridge*, in *Westmoreland*, assured the Compiler that he has seen, when the weather has been hard, and the mountains covered with snow, at least two or three hundred of these birds together, and that he has had the roof of his thatched house (which is in the mountains) covered with them; they lay from ten to fifteen eggs, and if the season is not extremely wet or dry, at the time of incubation, and for about ten days afterwards, you may expect to see them in abundance; their nests are in great danger of being destroyed, but are not liable to so many accidents as those of the Partridge. The principal food of the Grous is the black whortle berry, the red whortle berry, and the common heath berry; they delight in the tops of heath, and are fond of gravelly ruts; the scent of these birds, when opened, is not to be rejected, which proceeds

wholly from the gizzard, and the bird must be cut open to smell it in perfection; they inhabit those mountains and moors which are the least frequented and disturbed, and are fondest of the hills that have the deepest heath, and the largest and deepest ruts on them; they seldom or ever come near the low or cultivated grounds, unless compelled to do so. To instance this, the Compiler saw once *only* a pack of them forced to pitch in a potatoe ground, near the edge of a moor: When the season for these birds is reckoned a good one, the packs generally consist of from four to six, seven, or eight brace, and perhaps more, as it is no uncommon thing to find a single nest with twenty eggs, if the season should be favourable. The sport of Grous-shooting is very laborious and tiresome, and it requires a vast deal both of judgment and experience to find the birds, especially in mountains a person is not used to. It is proper therefore first to recommend a few articles necessary to be equipped with for this diversion, and then to give the best advice possibe to enable and assist sportsmen in finding this kind of game. As the weather is generally very warm at the commencement of the Grousing season, it will be adviseable to be very lightly clad, at the same time taking care to guard against catching cold, for recollect that the perspiration is so very great, that fatal consequences have often occurred from the neglect of this precaution; could it be enumerated and collected into one view, the fatal consequences that have ensued, from a suddenly checked perspiration,

after a severe day's sport, it might, perhaps, make a greater impression on our readers; but any deficiency on this head will be too readily supplied by several circumstances, which can be immediately called to their memory; we shall therefore only state one. The untimely fate of *Colonel O'Donnel,* of *Mount Massey,* in the county of *Corke, Ireland,* which will for ever be remembered with the deepest and sincerest regret, by his numerous and disconsolate family; he had been but just married to an amiable lady, and was cut off in the flower of youth, through inattention to himself; for after a long day's sport, he remained in his shooting dress, which was wet from the violent perspiration, till after dinner, this brought on an inflamation that carried him off in three days. Flannel shirt and drawers are therefore recommended, and those who cannot wear flannel, the use of calico: this imbibes the perspiration in a great degree, and if you are forced to be stationary for a time, as sitting down on the Moors, &c. you have not the unpleasant sensation and feeling, caused by your shirt not only sticking to your back, but which is always sure to chill you, and which inevitably must give you cold, when made of linen. Beware of drinking cold water; if you wish to drink, which you generally require, have a small canteen of brandy, and if your shooting flask is a compleat one, it should have a tin cup attached to the bottom of it, which will enable you to mix water with your brandy; rinsing your mouth three or four times will, perhaps,

Medland sculp.

satisfy your thirst, which will be much better than drinking. In Grous-shooting, take care to have half boots that sit close and lace easy, for shoes, when you walk the mountains, gather the tops of the heath, and these getting into your shoes, you will not only find them unpleasant, but very apt to rub off the skin. Before you go on the Moors, rub a little candle-grease on the knuckles of your toes, your heels, and the soles of your feet, which will not only prevent your being stripped, but also the hardness you will find on your feet and skin, and a soreness that is always the attendant consequence of an hard day's sport on the mountains.

When you intend to shoot Grous, you should be always guided by the barometer, for the birds can foresee bad weather, and will shift their ground accordingly. When you are going out, and expect bad weather from the fall in the glass, you will usually find the birds about midway on the hills, and if it is very bad weather, the butts of the mountains are the places to resort to, but in fine weather they are near the tops; if you are out in the morning, and you find them high, and in the evening very low, you may expect bad weather, except you have judgment to discern whether they are going to water or not. After Grous have fled in the morning, they regularly go to water, and therefore this time is the best to begin your day's sport; from that until twelve o'clock, and until the heat of the day comes on, you may have good sport, but after the scent

sinks, and then, unless the birds are very plenty, your finding them is mere chance. When you are in a mountain, and beating at the *dead* time of the day, which is from eleven until three or four; hunt all the long deep black ruts you can find, for in these the Grous often shelter themselves from the heat; at this time of the day they also frequent mossy places; when you first find them, if you should meet with an old cock (which you may know from the *chocking* noise he makes) if he goes off, it is a chance but he is an *old stager,* and that there are not any young birds at hand; but on finding the pack, he is generally the first bird that appears, and the first to take wing; if he has not been much disturbed, he will walk out before the dogs, making a *chocking* noise, and frequently gets up and shews himself, *challenging* the dogs, being seemingly under no apprehension for himself; by this he warns the hen and poults, which immediately begin to run and scatter, the hen generally runs down as far as she can from you, in order to draw you from the poults, if they are strong enough to shift for themselves, she will make off, and you may have some good sport; for frequently it happens *then* that a sportsman will be able to *pick* up the birds one after another, as in the beginning of the season they lie very close, particularly if they hear the report of a gun, at which they are so terrified, as to lie until you can take them with your hand from under the dog's nose; you cannot, at this period, go over and round that ground too often, for they frequently escape dogs with the finest noses.

When the birds are very young, the stratagem that the hen makes use of to protect the young ones, is wonderful; if she sees you coming she will get away from them directly, flying just before the dogs, making a dreadful screaming, and throwing herself on the ground with her wings extended, to all appearance as if she were never to rise more; but she always takes care that the dogs shall not come near enough to catch her; at this time, the sportsman ought to draw off his dogs, and all that need be said, is, that a person who would fire at a hen, in that situation, would not be to be pitied, if his gun should burst. This frequently happens, at the time of breaking dogs on the Moors, a practice that should not be permitted at this time of the year; for it is astonishing to conceive, the number of young Grous, that are generally destroyed by dog-breakers. The Compiler once saw, a young Setter, so decoyed by a hen Grous, that he was lost for two days; every time she threw herself down, the Dog was so near catching her, that he felt such a *twinge*, least she might have been destroyed, as is not to be described; but at last, by her stratagems, she decoyed him completely out of his sight. If your dogs are not very steady, the hen Grous, where the brood is young, will be very apt to make them break away: The Compiler has seen two Setters, come to a sett, and the cock-bird turn, and absolutely strike at one of them, and if the dog had not been very staunch, he might have caught it; but he only

turned his head round, without moving his body, and kept his sett. Grous, are birds difficult to be netted, (that is) you seldom, or ever, can take the whole pack. An instance has been rarely ever known, of netting more than two or three brace at a time, by reason of the straggling manner in which they lie, and also of their scattering at the approach of the Sportsman, or at the least noise.

In Grous-shooting, always take the wind of the hills, and be sure to try the sides of them which are most sheltered. If it blows hard, you will be sure to find the Birds where the heath is longest, and they will then generally take the long fligths, particularly if they go down the wind, to which, it has always been observed, they seem more partial; most other sorts of game usually going against it. Great inconvenience attends the sportsman when the wind is very high, for it not only blows the fire and powder out of the pan, but he will find it difficult also to keep his gun steady, and the wind will be continually making his eyes water.

Grous-shooting, not only knocks up Sportsmen sooner than any other kind of shooting, but also the Dogs; you ought therefore, to have plenty of them; one brace of good ones, at a time, will be enough to hunt to be properly attended to; after running them three or four hours, let go a fresh brace, and send the others home, in order (if you have but two brace) to allow the first proper rest, if you wish to continue Shooting in the

afternoon; but if you have three brace, or more, the dogs, you sent home, had better not be hunted until the next morning. If the night should be wet, previous to the day of shooting, you had better not attempt the hills; for, in this case, the Grous will not lie: If you should be out, and you find the Birds erect their heads and run, you may be certain that they will not lay well during that day; the only chance you have here, is to pursue them, running as fast as you can, which has been found, by experience, to be the only possible means of getting within shot; but observe there are two evils that attend this mode of Grousing, if you run, your dogs will do the same, and to get within shot, you must keep your eye on the Birds, while they are running; take care you dont then get a fall, which you most likely will, in uneven ground, and probably not only hurt yourself, and bend the gun, but, as has been formerly observed, spoil your dogs; but never forget to be cool and deliberate, and recollect the old saying,

"Wisely and *slow*; they stumble who run *fast*."

The burning of heath, on the mountains, which is done to fertilize them, also destroys Grous, more than any thing else; against which there is a severe Act of Parliament. The burning of heath, in this way, must appear, to be only real mischief, to those sportsmen who are not acquainted with the advantage the owner of the mountain derives from it; for it not only makes

way for the numerous herds of cattle to get at the grass tha stile at the roots of it, but the burnt heath, manures the ground after heavy rain, causing a great spring of grass; but there is great danger in doing it during a very dry summer, for if the wind should blow fresh, it will set the mountain in a blaze, which may be remembered to have happened, five years since, when it destroyed game mountains, and in the recollection of many, caused the burning down of several woods.

This burning is chiefly done in the *Spring*, at which time many nests are destroyed, and sometimes the old Bird in them, if they are there (as it is by Sportsmen termed *sitting hard.)*

Grous are found in great plenty on the mountains of Northumberland and Cumberland, belonging now to *Lord Lowther*, but lately to the *Earl of Lonsdale*; some few in the New Forest, in Hampshire, and some in Wales; but they are in great abundance and more numerous in Scotland, than in any other place. In the vicinity of the Grampian mountains and the Highlands of Scotland, they are so plentiful, that a tolerable shot may kill from twenty to thirty brace a day for the first three weeks of the season, provided the weather is favourable; an excursion therefore to that Country, in the Grous season, affords the keen Sportsman a noble entertainment: In many places, it is well known, that several have killed fifty brace of Birds, with a single barrel gun, between sun-rise and sun-set.

Grous will breed when in captivity; the following story the Compiler copied from the *Dublin Journal*. "A brace of Grous "kept for three years, at *George Grierson's, Esq. Rathfarnham-* "*House*, county of *Dublin*, this season (1802) brought out a "clutch of birds."

On reading which, the Compiler took pains to inquire further about it, and found they were brought up, and quite tame.

A *Mr. Green*, of *Green-Mount*, county *Tipperary*, Ireland, had two brace of Grous for several years, which were so tame, that it was a common practice with this gentleman (who was a famous sportsman) to bring the Birds and his Setters into the parlour together, and divert himself with seeing the dogs sett; the birds did not pay the smallest attention to the dogs, or indicate the slightest symptom of a wish to escape.

Ireland has a great many Grous, but nothing, in comparison, with the countries before mentioned; the Compiler has seen more of them, on the mountains about *Langholm*, in Scotland, in one day, than ever he saw in Ireland in twenty, although he has been on the best preserved mountains in that country, which belong to the *Earl of Kingston*: They are on the south-side of the great *Galty* mountains, near *Mitchell's Town*, in the counties of *Corke*, *Limerick* and *Tipperary*, and are allowed to be the best for Grousing in Ireland. These large mountains run sixteen miles, from East to West, being the property of several noblemen and gentlemen, and are all good for shooting. *Lords Massey* and *Cahir*

own part of them, but the *Honourable Massey Dawson's* part, on the north-side, is by far the best for Grousing; the two Sporting Lodges, belonging to him and the *Earl of Kingston,* are worthy of notice, and therefore the Compiler thinks a description of them will not be unacceptable. The *Earl of Kingston's,* is situated in the center, and quite enveloped by those great mountains and at the foot of a hill named *Galtymore;* being in the heart of the mountains: It shews that the late *Lord Kingston,* who built it, was not only a man of great taste, but a great farmer. It lies on the edge of a winding hill, to which there is a fine road, that cost an immense sum of money, as it runs through bogs and morasses: Under the house there is one of the best *Trout streams* in the world; the hills, all round, are planted with Fir, Beech, Oak and other trees; and, astonishing to relate, the ground adjoining, which a few years back, was but heath, bogs, and rocks, is now as fine meadow grounds, as any in the low lands: The sportsman is delighted on breaking in on this beautiful and high cultivated retreat, and the more he views it, the more he is astonished. The Compiler has been at this box, with the late *Lord Kingston,* and while sitting in the parlour, has seen Grous within twenty yards of the window: It then consisted of one large parlour, two bed rooms, and every other necessary requisite. As it was intended for shooting parties only, the beds were admirably contrived, as they folded up into large arm chairs, with covers to them, and had wheels to roll them upon, from one room to another; they were

very convenient, for often, after too much claret (which was pushed briskly about after the days sport) the sportsman, if he chose, might sleep in them as they were. These chairs were all run into the rooms at night, by each gentleman's servant, and were made up into beds in a few minutes.

On the north-side, in the beautiful Glen of *Aherlow,* stands *Ballinacourty* where almost every kind of game abounds; the fallow Deer go at large in great numbers, and red Deer, Stags, Hinds, Grous, Hares, and Partridges, are in the greatest plenty; there is not a spot in Ireland so remarkable for Cock-Shooting, with the addition of a capital river for both Trout and Salmon, within a stone's throw of the house; the greatest part of this beautiful Glen belongs to the *Honourable Massey Dawson.* It is in this part of the world that the finest pack of Buck Hounds in Europe, were kept by *Lord Massey,* who has some of them to this day; but they have much dwindled in their size, within these last four years; they were the largest to appearance, that were ever seen; and to view them, and suppose it would be possible for such brutes to run a Deer down, would be almost ridiculous; but the Compiler, who was for many years in the habit of hunting with them, can assure his readers, that he has been at as severe hunts with them, as with his own Fox-Hounds; their noses are so uncommonly fine, that the late *Lord Massey,* used to run a Stag for the whole day, and at the advance of night, has been known to drive a stake into the ground, and draw off

the Hounds, and coming next morning to the same place, has laid them on, which went off at full cry, and run into him towards the middle of the day. These Dogs, if going at their *top* speed, and in full cry, could be stopped by the sound of the horn, or a crack of the whip, when within hearing of either.

The *Kerry, Wicklow, Clogheen, Nenagh* and all the north country mountains, have plenty of Grous on them, and are, in general, well preserved. The extent of mountains you may range on in *Westmoreland,* belonging to *Lord Lowther,* is immense; you can walk for thirty miles without getting off his Moors; and often, if you have not a guide, you stand a good chance, of not only losing yourself, but remaining on the Moors all night: It is therefore frequently requisite to have a pocket compass, to enable you to find your way; although the morning, you go out in, may be a fine one, yet, in the course of a few hours, you may be enveloped in a fog, and sometimes, so suddenly, as not to allow you time to get home before you are lost.

With respect to the *black Grous,* or better known in Scotland by the appellation of *black Cocks,* or *black Game* they are found on the edges of the moors; sometimes the old cock, some way in on the mountains. They are not commonly found in *tall ling,* but in marshy ground, and not a forester, as is stiled by many; as it is well known, in Scotland, when they are most plentiful, to lie on the mountains, close to the stubbles, where they are seen to feed constantly, and are so foolish a bird, that

at *General Elliot's*, in *Scotland*, they may be seen perched on the pailing, when they will allow you to approach them as close as thirty or forty yards, before they shew any inclination to fly away. Their food is various, but they prefer the moors that are close to the corn fields to feed in; they weigh nearly four pounds, and the cock is twice as large as a red Grous; they are very foolish birds, and will perch on railing or trees like Pheasants. The Compiler shot some a few seasons back, in Somersetshire and Devonshire, where they are to be found rather plentifully at the commencement of the season. A curious circumstance, with regard to these birds is, that when they are served up at table, you will on cutting the breast, find the flesh brown for a quarter of an inch deep,* and next to that delicately white. It may now be concluded, on the subject of the Grous and black Game, by giving the Sportman directions, which are not to be found in any book yet written on Sporting; and which, on trial, will be found to be not only useful but true, and will answer for every kind of game; which, in general, is lost to the friends of the sportsman, by reason of his not knowing how to pack it, so as to keep it from being tainted; especially if it is to be sent to a great distance. They are as follows: If you wish to send your game to any distance, never draw it, particularly a Grous, that is, do not follow the usual directions of taking out the entrails.

* The breast of the bird, in Scotland, is called the *white Muscle*, from the white part of the breast being the exact shape of a muscle.

The best mode is not to pack them until they are perfectly dry; first of all, procure bladders, and put a brace, or more, in one; if the bladder will contain them, tie the bladder tight round the neck and seal it with sealing wax, to prevent the air from getting in, and in that state, if they are put into boxes, they will keep for three weeks, if required. The Compiler, last year tried this experiment, and found that it answered better than any mode he had ever before made use of: He sent a gentleman some game to London, from Cumberland, packed as described, and the gentleman not being at home, it lay in the box until his return, which was fifteen days after its arrival; and this gentleman assured him, that he was surprised to find, on eating it, that it was as good as if it had been killed only the day before; and was perfectly sweet, although the distance it went, was nearly three hundred miles.

THE PARTRIDGE.

"THESE Birds (*Mr. Willoughby says*) held the principal place in the feasts and entertainments of princes, in former times; without them their feasts were accounted ignoble, vulgar, and of no account: The French so highly value, and are so fond of the Partridge, that if they are wanting, they utterly despise and slight the best spread tables; as if there could be no feast without them." This might have been in the times of that Historian, but the Partridge is now too common in France, to be considered as a delicacy or rarity; and this, as well as every other simple dish, is exploded, for luxuries of a more compound invention. In England, where the Partridge is much more scarce, and sold much dearer, it is still a favourite delicacy at the tables of the rich; and the desire of keeping it to themselves

has induced them to make laws for its preservation, in no wise harmonising with the general spirit of English legislation, although certainly for wise reasons adopted. The Partridge seems to be a bird well known, as it is found in every country, and in every climate, as well in the frozen regions about the Pole, as the torrid tracts under the Equator; it even seems to adapt itself to the nature of the climate where it resides.

In Greenland, the Partridge which is brown in Summer, as soon as the winter sets in, begins to take a covering suited to the season; it is then cloathed with a warm down beneath, and its outward plumage becomes the colour of the snow, amongst which it seeks its food; thus it is doubly fitted for the place, by the warmth and colour of its plumage—the one to defend it from the cold, the other to prevent its being noticed by its enemies.

There are two kinds of Partridges, the red and the grey, the latter is most worthy of notice. It is naturally cowardly fearful and simple, and may be easily deceived or beguiled with almost any device; the places it delights in most are corn-fields, especially while the corn is growing, for under this cover they mostly shelter and breed; they also frequent those places where the corn is down, in order to feed, as corn is their principal food, great shelter being afforded them by the stubs when they are not cut close; after feeding in the morning, during the harvest time, when the corn grounds are disturbed by reapers and gleaners, they lie on fallows, grass, or any other land until the evening,

when they return and feed among the sheaves of corn: Partridges pair about the second week in February, but in this respect they are sometimes much influenced by the weather; for if it is mild, they are found in *Pairs* in January, but if after pairing the weather should be very severe, they are frequently found in *Packs*.*

The cock bird weighs about fourteen ounces, the hen nearly twelve; when they are young, and their plumage is not quite complete, they are to be distinguished from the old ones by the first feather of the wing, which terminates in a point like a lancet; this remains only until the first moulting, and in those birds which are not of the first brood, this feather is round at the extremity; further differences that are also perceiveable are these:—the beak of the young bird is brown, while that of the old one is of a bluish white; the legs of the old one are grey, those of the young yellow; but the difference between the cock and hen when they become Game, (or as termed by sportsmen *black tails*) is plainly distinguished by the horse-shoe with which the cock is marked on his breast; the hen has a few feathers there also, slightly resembling those of the cock, but they are not so bright by far; their plumage from the period that they are hatched until they get this mark, undergoes a great variety of changes; until this horse-shoe becomes quite plain, they should not be deemed Game, nor indeed ought any sportsman to kill

* When Partridges after once pairing, are, by the influence of the weather, compelled to collect again, they are then by sportsmen said to *pack*, and are not called *covies*.

them. The cock partridge is armed with obtuse spurs, which the hen has not. The hen makes her nest upon the ground, on the tops of old ditches, in clover, standing corn, and often in the tracks made by the hoofs of horses, in the open field, which consists of a few blades of grass, constructed without art; she lays from fifteen to twenty eggs, sometimes more, and when she leaves her nest, she always covers up her eggs, so that it is very difficult to find them in her absence. The time of laying is in the month of May, and the greac hatch the first week in June. She sits three weeks, at which time, she loses all the feathers off her belly. The earliest of the young ones, begin to fly the latter end of June, or shortly after.

These Birds are not equally abundant every year, as their number, in a great measure, depends upon the weather; not only at the time of laying their eggs, and the season of incubation, but also from the time they are hatched until they become strong, and have plenty of feathers; for if it is very wet at the time of sitting, it is very apt to chill the eggs, and then they perish; and often, when they are just leaving their shell, the cold benumbs them, being of course very weak, and they perish in searching for their food. Indeed Partridges, when young, are not compact enough in their plumage to resist the wet, and of course perish; but if the months of June and July are dry, you may expect an abundance of them. It is a mistaken notion that in too dry a season young Partridges are lost, by falling into

the crevices of the ground, caused by the heat, as a season cannot be too dry for them; though to the young Grous it is certain, a drought is very unfavourable, for often they are lost in looking for water, being forced to resort to the *peat pots* and *turf holes,* which are almost the only places that contain water on the Moors. In a very dry season, some are so deeply cut, as to force the old birds to fly down into them, when the poults follow and cannot get back, unless they are flyers; besides, these cracks and crevices are numerous in mountains, and the young Grous, in search of food, frequently fall into them, on their backs, and cannot extricate themselves: It is wonderful to think how small a crack will destroy a young poult.

It is better to have rain fall the latter end of April, or the first week in May, than at any other time, which is in favour of the Partridge, and an event which is likely to save numbers; and for this reason, the Partridge, finding all the low places moist and flooded, will be the means of forcing her to seek a more elevated situation to build her nest. A wet season is also of bad consequence to the young Partridges, provided they may have escaped all other dangers and difficulties, for it destroys the ants, which are their principal and almost only food: But, indeed, many and various are the dangers these Birds are liable to, besides those already enumerated, from the time of laying their eggs until the young ones are hatched; and these arise, as well from weazels and other vermin, from crows, magpies, and Shep-

herds dogs, as from the Shepherds belonging to many Farmers, and the Farmers themselves, who never cease to destroy the eggs, and encourage Poachers, for two reasons, one of which is certainly just: The first is, because the Farmer is not permitted to shoot or carry a gun, although he is the very supporter of the Game; and certainly, by the Laws of Nature, has as great a right to it as any person: Secondly, because a mad sportsman will frequently dart with his pointers, into a standing field of corn, little considering that every movement of himself and his dogs, is doing a very great injury to his neighbour, the Farmer. Let Sportsmen declare if this does not frequently happen, and often without the knowledge of the injured person: But in reply to this, some may say, that the Law is open to the Farmer; the truth of this is admitted, but Farmers well know, that it is better to put up with the loss they sustain, by the depredations of Sportsmen, than to allow themselves to be equally stripped by a Lawyer; the Farmer may say, "half-a-loaf is better than no bread." It would be advisable if Lords of Manors and Sportsmen who wish to preserve Game chose it, that they should wink at the Farmers, now and then sporting; or at least, send him some Game, which would be the means of protecting it; for certainly, they have it in their power to destroy or preserve it at pleasure. The following instance of those assertions, may in some measure be corroborated by the following story: In the county of *Cumberland,* not many years since, a gentleman of consider-

able fortune, who had some well stocked Moors, found one of his tenants, a wealthy farmer, who resided near them, Grous-shooting; which had been a common practice with him for many years, as well as all the other neighbouring farmers: Upon which, this gentleman prosecuted and fined him, notwithstanding all the entreaties of the neighbourhood to the contrary; as he thought it the most effectual mode to ensure the protection of his Game in future: However, he was mistaken, for the farmers in the neighbourhood agreed to destroy all the Game, which they absolutely effected; for when they found a nest, which they took great pains to do, they crushed the eggs, and encouraged the Poachers of *Carlisle* so much, that the following season not a Grous was to be found. This the Compiler had from a resident of the place.

From what has been said, the destruction of Partridges in the eggs must be very great, which gives great reason to suppose, that one-half, in general, of the eggs are destroyed: The Compiler knew of four nests having been despoiled, on one small farm, last season, by being cut out. If a Partridge's nest is destroyed, she generally lays again, and this hatch, (which is termed *clacking*) is not Game until October; and the Birds are always weak, seldom coming to perfection, being often killed by the rigour of the winter.

Young Partridges are known from the old ones by the difference of the bill and legs; in the former, the bill is of a dark colour, and the legs yellowish; and in the latter, the bill is white and the legs blue.

It is easy to shoot young Partridges, until the middle of October, but after that period, having tasted the green wheat, they require large shot, and you can seldom get within shot of them as they are wild, and on the watch. In this case, nothing but following them with perseverance will scatter them, as at this time they take such long flights; and, even then, to be successful, the country must be flat, and destitute of high covers, so that the eye can range, to mark them; for until you can disperse them, all your labour will be in vain. One method, generally adopted by old Sportsmen, who fall in with a Covey at this time of the year, is to fire at them at all events, for if the shot should fly among them, even without execution, it has often been known to be the cause of their lying well, and tolerable sport has been the result. When Partridges eggs are placed under a common hen and hatched, the birds become very tame: The Compiler lately had a cock Partridge, which was given him by the *Honourable Miss Monck, of Bath,* who found it when riding one day by the side of the road, it appearing not to have been hatched above four days before she caught it; it was one of the finest birds ever seen, being very large, and so tame, that

J. West del. T. Medland sculp.

if let out into a garden, or at large, he would not attempt to fly away; would walk about the house, and come when called to, to receive his food out of the hand; he was not in the smallest degree afraid of either cat or dog, but would run at both and peck them: The Compiler has brought his Setters and Pointers to him, neither of which would offer to touch him. When he moved, and the dogs followed him, he would turn and peck them; he often would take his situation on the Setter's back, who only turned his head round, and seemed to enjoy the liberty the Bird had taken.

In shooting Partidges, Pointers and setters are usually employed; the Pointer is certainly to be preferred, if the Game is very plenty, and one staunch dog is fully sufficient in that case, being as much as the Sportsman will be able to manage with success. The Setter is to be preferred, if the country is open and Birds are scarce; though many Sportsmnn use Spaniels * in Partridge-shooting, preferring them to the Pointer or Setter. The morning is the best time for this amusement, begining two hours after day break, and continuing until eleven o'clock; (especially in dry weather) and from four in the afternoon until it is dark. When the weather is very dry, especially in the early part of the season, the scent is lost as soon as the sun has any strength, or rather the scent *sinks*, as it is termed by Sportsmen;

* Respecting Spaniels, see Spaniels and Shooting.

then it is that the Sportsman's and Pointer's abilities, and cunning are put to the test, and called in question.

Partridges generally have their feeding and lying places, although it often happens that they remain all night, or all day, where they have fed the preceding evening or morning, but oftener change their ground. At day break they *call*, and when collected, take their flight to the stubbles, which if high enough to shelter them, perhaps will induce them to remain until disturbed; When they feed in the evening, and have done, they *call* again, and so fly to the place where they remain for the night: It is at this time, the Poacher *fixes* or *setts* the Birds, for his *murdering tunnel-net.*

Partridges are the fondest birds in the world of running in *clutches*, constantly rubbing and crossing each other, and always following the leading bird; which from their first movement retains his situation: By this means they fall an easy prey to the Poacher, either when he is tunneling them, or laying bird-lime twigs for them. In that destructive mode of tunneling, if the leading bird touches the net, he will run all along it, and coming to the mouth of the tunnel, will turn into it, all the rest of the Covey following; for it seldom happens, in driving them into a tunnel, that one bird escapes, the Poacher generally getting all or none. When the bird-lime twigs are laid, the first bird that finds himself limed, in struggling, alarms the Covey, which immediately begins to run, and then the limed bird runs

amongst them, and seldom fails so to besmear his companions, that generally two or three brace are found by the Poacher, upon coming to where his lime-twigs were laid; who, if he misses the twigs, instantly begins to hunt the hedge-rows with a dog, and is sure to find the Birds. A gentleman of the name of *Chatterton*, being out a shooting one day in *Northumberland*, got several points at Partridges, and was surprised to see them run and not able to fly, who, on securing them, found that they were all over bird-lime; and on hunting the hedges, picked up four brace and a half.

It is very singular that Sportsmen find one-third of each Covey of Partridges to be cocks; at the time therefore of breeding, they contend greatly with each other for the hens. The Compiler at this period once saw, a brace of cock Partridges, so deeply engaged in fighting, as not to notice him, and one of them was taken up by a *Mr. Benson*, who was with him, having his head covered with blood, with the loss of one eye; the other bird was so far from attempting to fly away, that he absolutely followed his antagonist, while in the possession of this gentleman, as if he wished to renew the contest, upon which, he was also secured.

When a hen is thus tormented by a number of cocks, she is forced to run about continually, to avoid them; and at laying time, is so worried by them, that she drops one egg in one place,

and one in another, until there remains for her but one cock, and no nest.

The best mode to destroy the cocks is, during the first three weeks of the season, by netting the Covey, and destroying all the old cocks, leaving as many young ones as hens, or even one less, for it is certainly better that the hen should look for the cock (which she undoubtedly will find) than a number of cocks for a hen.

It should be recollected, that where old birds are left, they will at the pairing season, drive off the young ones, and prevent their breeding; for let any Sportsman declare, if ever, on finding a single brace of Partridges, in the shooting season, that have not bred, and are termed by Sportsmen a *gelt pair*, he has found a Covey near the same place where he found them, which can be only accounted for, by the old birds driving the young ones from the ground, and preventing their breeding there. It is therefore a wrong notion, that birds should not be killed every year, and those gentlemen who have manors, will find, by not allowing some to be killed, that in a short time their manors will be entirely destitute of game. The late *Earl* of *Kingston*, had a great quantity of Grous on his mountains in *Ireland*, before they were preserved; who thought, by leaving them quiet for a couple of seasons, that he would have had an abundance, as he actually did not allow a shot to be fired on

those mountains for two seasons, and it is well known they were carefully preserved: On collecting, however, a large party the third season, and going out to Grous, many of the gentlemen who had been in the habits of shooting there, prior to its being preserved, were surprized to find a great scarcity, the reason of which was, certainly, that the old birds drove the young ones off; and all the mountains adjoining the *Earl* of *Kingston*'s, were swarming with game, although they had not been preserved. It is the same with Partridges; the late *Colonel Hyde*, of *Castle-Hyde*, county of *Corke*, Ireland, who wished much to increase the breed of them on his grounds, pursued the following plan, which proved successful, having the desired effect. His Game-keeper, in the early part of the season, netted a number of birds, reserving all the young ones with some old hens, and destroying all the old cocks; he turned the young birds into a large place he had built purposely for them, and let them go again on the first of February following, and he had, in consequence, a great abundance about him: If, therefore, this method answered so well, it would certainly be worth any gentleman's while to adopt the same plan. There are many Sportsmen who have so keen an eye, as to be able to ascertain, when the Partridges take wing, the difference between a cock aud a hen; if so, it is to be wished every Sportsman would kill the cock in preference to the hen, and then the breed of Partridges would be greatly increased throughout the kingdom.

THE PHEASANT.

PHEASANTS were originally brought into Europe from the banks of the *Phasis,* a river of *Colchis,* in *Asia Minor;* and from whence they still retain their name. Next to the Peacock, they are the most beautiful of birds, as well for the vivid colour of their plumes, as for their happy mixtures and variety. It is far beyond the power of pencil to draw any thing so glossy, so bright, or points so finely blended with each other. We are told when *Crœsus,* king of *Lydia,* was seated on his throne, adorned with royal magnificence, and all the barbarous pomp of Eastern splendor, he asked *Solon* if he had ever beheld any thing so fine: The Greek Philosopher, no way moved by the objects before him, or taking a pride in his native simplicity, replied, that after having seen the beautiful plumage of the Pheasant, he could be astonished at no other finery.

"Ah! what avail such heav'nly plumes as thine,
"When Dogs and Sportsmen in thy ruin join."

In fact, nothing can feast the eye with a greater variety than the Pheasant; the richness and ornament of his plumage are beautiful; the iris of his eyes yellow; and the eyes themselves are surrounded with a scarlet colour, sprinkled with small specks of black.

On the fore part of the head, the feathers are blackish, mixed with a shining purple; the top of it, and the upper part of the neck, are tinged with a darkish green, that shines like silk; in some, the top of the head is of a shining blue, and the head itself, as well as the upper part of the neck, appear sometimes blue and sometimes green, as it presents itself differently to the eye of the spectator. The feathers of the breast, the shoulders, the middle of the back, and the sides under the wings, have a blackish ground, with edges tinged of an exquisite colour, which appears sometimes black and sometimes purple, according to the different lights in which it is viewed; under the purple, there is a transverse streak of a gold colour. The tail, from the middle feathers to the root, is about eighteen inches long; the legs, the feet, and the toes, are of the colour of horn. There are black spurs on the legs, shorter than those of a cock: There is a membrane that connects two of the toes together.

The Pheasant, though so beautiful to the eye, is not less delicate when served up on the table; its flesh is considered as

the greatest dainty; and when the old Physicians spoke of the wholesomeness of any viands, they made their comparison with the flesh of the Pheasant; and, notwithstanding all these perfections, which tempt both the curiosity and the palate, they have increased much in their wild state.

A spirit of independence seems to attend the Pheasant, even in captivity. In the woods, the Pheasant lays from twelve to fifteen eggs in a season; but in a domestic state, seldom above ten. In the same manner, when wild, she hatches and brings up her brood, with patience, vigilance and courage; but when kept tame, she never sits well, so that a hen is generally her substitute, on such occasions; and as for leading her young to their food, she is utterly ignorant where it is to be found; and the young Birds starve, if left solely to her protection. The Pheasant, therefore, seems better to be left at large in the woods, on every account, than reclaimed to pristine captivity; its fecundity, when wild, is sufficient to stock the forest, its plumage more beautiful, and its flesh retains a higher flavour, from it unlimited freedom.

We are informed by *Salerne*, that the hen Pheasant, when she has done laying, and sitting, will get the plumage of the cock, and after that, become so little respected by him, as to be treated with the same incivility as he would shew to one of his own sex.

The circumstance of the hen acquiring the plumage of the cock, after a certain time, is not we find confined to the Phea-

sant only : The instance of a Pea-hen, belonging to *Lady Tynte*, now, or lately, in the *Leverian Museum*, evinces the contrary; which, after having many broods, got much of the beautiful plumage of the cock; and, what is more to be remarked, she had also the addition of the fine tail feathers: But their changes are said to be still more frequent, when these Birds are in a confined state. The following curious circumstance, which happened within the memory of many of the inhabitants of, and near *Bath*, is well worth stating, respecting Poultry changing their plumage. *Major Brereton*, of the above place, had a noted Game Cock, entirely of a dark red; and, after his great match, on which depended the sum of *thirty-six thousand pounds*, in hard cash, and winning the odd battle, he turned him to a *walk*, at a place, near *Bath*, called *Hogget's-Bottom;* the Bird had not been long there, when the owner of the farm came to the *Major* and informed him, he was all spangled with white; in a few days after, when the *Major* went to see him, he found him all over white, or, as it is termed by Cockers, *a complete smock*, not a red feather was to be seen. In the course of some time after, he resumed his former plumage. The *Major* has his picture, which was taken at each time of his changing, and every feather, by the drawings, seems to have exactly preserved its own shape.

A gentleman, who is a very particular acquaintance of the Compiler *(Mr. Tessdale, of the county of Lowth, Ireland)* assured

him, he had once a Game Hen, which changed her plumage every season. : She was originally black, but every second year became white. He also added, that when she was changing her plumage, he observed its daily progress, which became more or less spangled, until the whole plumage was uniform.

About a year since, a *Mr. Law*, of *Sheffield*, had a Hen perfectly black, which has since changed her colour and plumage, and become perfectly white.

Pheasants come in a month later than Partridges; the first year they are marked in the wing like Partridges. The *nide* of Pheasants generally keep together, until they find they have no occasion for the assistance of the hen, but much longer, when not disturbed by sportsmen. If any person will observe the place where Pheasants feed, and watch them, he will see them all together; but on the least alarm, they separate, and run different ways. The Cock's age (whose plumage is compleated the first year) is known by his spurs, which are short, round and blunt, when young; but long and sharp, when old, the point being a little turned. The Hen has also a small spur, but it is larger and more prominent when she is old; and this happens in a greater or less degree, in proportion to the age of the Bird; besides, in the young ones, each spur is surrounded with a small black circle, which does not disappear until the second time of their hatching. The legs of those Pheasants, which have at-

tained the age of five or six years, are very much wrinkled, and of a dark colour; the crystal also of the eye is yellow, while that of the young one is white, until after the second year: But all these marks and signs are not without many exceptions. To know a young Bird from an old one, the Compiler recommends trying the beak, as that of the young one is tender and easily broken; whereas, that of the old one is yellow and very hard.

The Pheasant is accounted, by some, a stupid Bird, and will allow itself to be almost trodden upon before it will move; but this will be found, by experience, not to be the case, for every Sportsman, that has been in the habit of shooting these Birds, well knows, what stratagems and devices a cock Pheasant will make use of, before he can be *pushed*, by either Spaniel or Pointer. During the day time they remain upon the ground, among the underwood, in hedge-rows, and sometimes they feed in the stubbles if not disturbed; they delight in low and moist places, preferring the edges of pools, that are frequently found in woods. They are to be met with also in high grass and marshes, near the sea in particular, but resort mostly to alders, in which they take the greatest pleasure. They are to be found in turnips, and seldom shew themselves in open ground, except when they are well preserved. They always roost in trees, generally becoming an easy prey to the Poachers, who have various methods of destroying them; by driving them into nets, taking them in *springes*, coming into covers where they roost, and holding burning sulphur

under them, by means of a long pole, until they are suffocated; by spurring a game Cock, and placing him in their haunt, when the cock Pheasant will surely, if near him, give him battle, and a few strokes of the steel spurs leave him dead, or so disabled, as not to be able to get away. A Game-Keeper, at *Wardour-Castle, Wilts,* informed the Compiler, that the *Hindon* Poachers, who are allowed to exceed all others of that profession, come in numbers of a dozen at a time, with arms, and getting into the Preserves, they all look out, so as to get a Bird a piece, or more if they can, in a line, and then fire together, at the word of command, keeping close to each other, lest the Keepers should fall in with them; they then pick up the slain, as fast as they can, and make off. It is a very extraordinary circumstance to be related, that when Poachers go to a cover, they prefer a star-light night to any other: This he has been confidently assured of, by one of the best Poachers in England; because, first, the Game-Keepers are not so alert as they would be on a moon-light night, and next, because the Birds may be distinguished nearly as well as by moon-light, and are less liable to perceive the Poacher. He also assured the Compiler of a curious fact, which he would not have believed had he not seen it, namely, that when Pheasants roosting, at night, are fired at, the discharge of the gun alarms the cocks, and they all fly away; but the hens remain, and allow themselves to be killed, one after another; therefore, the owners

of Manors, will do well to be guarded on starry, as well as moon-light nights. In order to convince my readers, that my Informer was a first-rate Poacher, I relate the following circumstance; I was out with him one day, when he requested leave to net a Covey of Birds, to which I consented: When his dog pointed, he covered three brace and a half, out of four, the remaining Bird escaped, which he remarked was a cock; and on my expressing a wish that he had been taken, he told me that he would be sure of him the next day, if I would allow him to come again, which he did; and in order to be certain of him, he let go the three brace and a half, which he had taken, and the next day took the whole, which I am convinced must have been the same, from the exact number, and no other Covey being on that ground.

Cock Pheasants generally begin to *crow* about the first week in March, making a noise which can be heard at a great distance: They do not pair like Partridges, as one cock is sufficient for a number of hens. These Birds are very fond of laying their eggs in clover, which occasions the destruction of many nests; for it is mowed so often, and generally so early, that the eggs are often cut out by the scythe: The same lamentable loss also happens in French-grass, to them as well as to Partridges, from the same means. The best mode to prevent the destruction of either is to take the eggs, if you can find out where the Birds lay, and

T. Medland sculp.

Scene in Wales

Cock Shooting with Spaniels.

thereby frequently disturbing and driving them away from those places, they will, most likely, forsake them, and lay in some more secure place.

When they are going to *roost* at night, the cock makes a noise called *cocketting*, the hen also makes a noise like a sharp whistle, which she ceases to do after alighting; when at this time, if the Poacher is near, he seldom fails to reap great benefit from these signals.

Pheasants are in great plenty about *Minehead*, so much so, that they are to be seen in the roads, and there is scarcely a ditch in that neighbourhood that does not contain two or three brace; they are met with in the gardens of the town, and often even perch on the tops of the houses. At a Farmer's, not a mile from this place, they perch, every morning and evening, on the trees in the yard; and are not frightened, in the smallest degree, by the appearance of any individual: They feed with the fowls, and I have heard farmers, in that place declare, that they destroy a great deal of their corn. A *Mr. Jones*, who keeps the *Plume of Feathers Inn* there, has a Hen bird that was got by a cock Pheasant, out of a common Hen; it is very large, but short tailed, and shews a great deal of the Pheasant in its appearance. Birds thus produced, are called *mules*, and in some places are to be found in a wild state.

About this place is also a kind of Pheasant, called a *Ring-neck*, by reason of a large white ring surrounding the cock's neck,

which is perceptible at the greatest distance, when the Bird is within gun-shot. The Compiler has shot a great many of this kind, at *Minehead,* and can safely assert, that they are larger Birds, by far, than those without a ring; and the beak is more crooked. When shooting in this neighbourhood, he one day fired at a white Bird, which was just clearing a hedge, that appeared to be a Pheasant, except in the colour, which was entirely white; it seemed to him to be an old bird, and on being shewn to several Sportsmen, it was considered as a great curiosity.

In Pheasant-shooting, a Sportsman should be properly equipped for a *cover;* having a strong pair of *borragon* fustian gaiters, in preference to leather, for leather ones are very uncomfortable to the legs when they are wet, and will not dry very soon, but fustian ones, on the contrary, will dry directly, and from experience, are well known to be much preferred to leather, as they will turn the thorns equally as well. This amusement is very laborious, requiring perseverance and good bottom. If you can find the Birds in hedge-rows, you will be sure to have sport; especially if the place of sporting has not been disturbed for some time before. If the night before you shoot should be wet, by all means try the hedge-rows and furze-covers, always recollecting to keep between the furze and the cover. When the night is wet, the Pheasants will be sure to quit the covers, as they don't like the droppings of the trees: The assertion of half

T. Medland sculp.

Scene in Somersetshire

Pheasant Shooting with Pointers

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the Sportsmen in the kingdom, that they are very uncertain Birds, here to day and gone to-morrow, is not true; if covers are continually pestered with guns and dogs, you may be sure that all kinds of Game will forsake them, being compelled, from necessity, to seek for more peaceable habitations.

In Pheasant-shooting, many, who are not used to the diversion, do not properly know how to set about it; the Compiler himself, used formerly to make use of springing Spaniels, (which may do for the first three weeks of the season) but found after that time, that the moment the Pheasants heard the Spaniels open, they were off instantly. The custom of putting bells round dogs necks, is equally ridiculous, as it alarms the Game; and besides, if a Pointer with a bell, that is staunch, should stop suddenly, and your attention should not be fixed upon him, you might be looking for him for hours, and so lose the day's sport; one good strong Pointer, which is under command, and will keep near you, will get you more shots than all the Spaniels you could bring, but you must be silent. The Compiler has often known, in this way, a Pointer stand at a Pheasant on the ground, which instead of going off, has got into a tree, over the Pointer, and begun *challenging*, which proceeded entirely from no noise being made. You are directed by some Sportsmen, who stile themselves *knowing* shots, not to fire until the Bird is clear of the cover, and going off, but it is ten to one if you can kill a Bird in that situation, as it is one of the most difficult aims to take; my best advice is, to pull the trigger as soon as you have

covered the mark, observing the distance, and waiting on him with your aim as he flies, so as not to tear him to pieces with the shot, or lose him by the interference of trees, hedges, or other objects. There is not any kind of shooting that injures good Pointers and Setters, more than Pheasant-shooting; for if a cock Pheasant should be only winged, the dog must run to secure him, or you will lose the Bird; and after some time, from being in the habit of running to secure every Pheasant he sees drop, he will certainly do the same at Grous and Partridges. In beating covers, always go slow, and be careful, and always keep this fresh in your memory, that the Sportsman who goes oftenest over his ground, will always be the most successful.

There is fine Pheasant-shooting in the following places: *Mr. Luttrell's*, at *Minehead, Lord Fortescue's, Sir John Trevellian's*, at *Mr. Greathead's, Winbourn, Dorset*; in *Kent, Norfolk*, and particularly on *Lord Berkley's* Manors, in *Gloucestershire*, and *Cranford-Bridge*, where they are in the greatest abundance.

The rules and laws laid down by Sportsmen, relative to Pheasant-shooting, is never to fire at a hen, and the fine is half-a-guinea, for every hen shot to the Game-keeper:

"But when the *hen*, to thy discerning view,
"Her sable pinion spreads, of duskier hue,
"The attendant Keeper's prudent warning hear,
"And spare the offspring of the future year;
"Else shall the *fine*, which custom laid of old,
"Avenge her slaughter, by the forfeit, gold." PYE.

This law is always inflicted, and never resisted, but it may be often carried to excess, for many gentlemen's Manors have been known to have had almost all hens, and very few cocks, so much so, that at *Lord Fortescue's*, last season, *Captain Fortescue* was obliged to desire the hens to be killed, and the cocks spared; for when hens get very old, they don't breed, and drive the young ones from the *roost*. In Preserves, they should always have corn laid for them in severe weather, which is the custom in many places; and in some Preserves, these Birds know the person who feeds them (who should always be the Keeper) so well, as to come and perch on the trees over him, or on the ground close to him, the moment they hear him *call*.

THE WOODCOCK.

THE Woodcock is a Bird of passage, and commonly arrives in England and Ireland about October, although many instances have been known, of these Birds having been killed in the middle of September. It is remarked that the first light nights, in October, bring them over in large flights, particularly if the east, or north-east winds prevail, at that time: Fogs are also very favourable to them; it therefore may be concluded, that their passage is more or less advanced or retarded, by the winds. In Ireland, where these Birds are more numerous, than either England or Scotland, the inhabitants remark, that if they perceive Black-birds plenty, it is a sure sign that Woodcocks will be in great abundance that year. If the winds are contrary at

this period, Woodcocks are never so plenty; for the Compiler has been assured by Captains of vessels, that Woodcocks have been compelled to take shelter in the rigging, when the winds are against them, and that they have seen numbers drowned and floating on the water; which of course, accounts for the numbers being so few in a bad season. On their first arrival, they will drop in any place, even on the strands and shores of the coast; at which time (on the Irish coast) they are well watched by the Peasants, and numbers are taken. A prodigious flight of Woodcocks in October, 1802, were seen at sea, and numbers pitched on the southern coast of Ireland, and likewise in the fields about *Margate*; they were so weakened from fatigue, owing to contrary winds, that the Peasants knocked them down with their sticks, and they were so poor, that they were scarcely worth killing. They are fond of throwing themselves into low small covers, under high trees; but in Ireland, they are fondest of those places that are nearest to the mountains, where they prefer residing, until forced, by frost or snow, to seek shelter in adjacent covers: Therefore, although they are very plenty in Ireland, covers are, by all Sportsmen, never disturbed until the frost sets in; they are a very uncertain Bird, as to their stay in any place, for although not disturbed, they will often change, after feeding. It is a very singular circumstance, that when Woodcocks first arrive, they are *lousy*, and also just before they leave this country, on their return to Sweden, where it is ob-

served, that their departure and return agrees exactly with their arrival and retreat from Great-Britain. A circumstance worthy of remark in this Bird, which is rather singular, is, that if you shoot one just after his arrival, in this country, you will find that he will bleed but little; but in the height of the season, or when they are most in perfection, if you shoot one, you will find him bleed plentifully, which is probably owing to the luxurious feed they meet with, after so long an abstinence on their passage. Towards the latter end of February, and the first three weeks in March, they return to the coast, in order to depart, and if the wind proves contrary, Sportsmen will have an opportunity of getting some good shooting at them, for they will remain until the wind is fair; and in the covers that, perhaps, the day before contained many couples, there most likely will not be found one. It is rather singular that Woodcocks, which we know must take a long flight in their passage, should seem to us, on being *flushed*, not fond of using their wings. They walk very clumsily, as all Birds do which have short legs and long wings; their sight is very bad in the day time, in the dark they see better, which is the time when they go to feed, (or in sporting term) *go roading*.

A story, well known to all the inhabitants near *Dublin*, and about the *Dublin* Light-house, may serve to shew that these birds cannot see well even at night; it happened that while the Compiler was at his uncle's house, close to the spot, that a

Woodcock, about seven years ago, in his flight, struck against one of the panes of glass, of the *Dublin* Light-House, on the *hill of Howth*; the person who had the care of it, hearing the crash, on examining into the cause, found a Woodcock, which fell inside, through the pane, which wonderful to relate, was of double-flint plate-glass; the Woodcock was broken and cut to pieces, not having a whole bone remaining. It is supposed that it was the glare of light that attracted the Bird, as many gentlemen on that shore, who live close to the sea, have assured the Compiler, that there had been many instances of Woodcocks falling or flying against their windows, and that it has frequently happened.

During the day time, Woodcocks remains in the thickest covers, taking care to avoid all open spaces, or glades; and the covers they are fondest of, is a deep, wet, or boggy bottom, and are sure to be found there, particularly if there are any old holly trees, where they are fondest of making their residence. In feeding, they turn the leaves over with their bills, picking up the grubs and worms, and scrape the ground with their feet in quest of food: They weigh generally from twelve to fourteen ounces. When night comes on, they leave the covers to wash their bills, and feed; after which, they throw themselves into the open fields or meadows, and at day-break return again to cover. At this time of their return it is, that the *roading-nets* take so many hundreds, which are fixed in the openings of the

L. West del. T. Medland sculp.

Scene in Ireland

woods; for it is to be observed, that Woodcocks going to feed, always fly through the openings or *glades* of the covers, termed by Sportsmen *roading*; and when *flushed*, always makes for an opening, where the nets are usually laid, which the Birds cannot perceive, by reason of their bad sight. It may be often observed, by those who are in the habits of following this diversion, where Woodcocks are plenty, that one flushed in cover, has often flown so near the Sportsman, that he has been almost able to strike him with his gun.

They are taken in *Cumberland* and *Westmoreland*, by *springes*, in the following manner: The people find out where they feed, by the marks of their feet, and placing two or three long ranges of large stones, leave just room enough, between each stone, to admit the Woodcock to pass; in this space they then place, at intervals, their *springes*, and take them in great numbers by this means. In shooting these birds, it is recommended to choose the covers that are thickest, with wet bottoms; which have large openings, here and there, or copses of three years growth; but observe, if there is long grass at the roots of the trees, bushes, &c. or on the ground, you will not meet with any there.

When the Woodcock first rises, he does it heavily and rapidly, making a great noise with his wings, endeavouring to get clear of the trees; after which, if you may remark, he will make two or three turns, or more, particularly if he has been shot at before; you cannot cover him well to a certainty, you had therefore, if

better let him go without shooting, as in all likelihood he will drop again at a few yards distance from you: These Birds will allow themselves to be flushed and shot at several times, in the same cover, and the same day. If you spring one in a hedge-row, he frequently goes strait along the hedge, when he cannot well be missed: If he turns for a cover, in crossing the field, he just skims over the ground; he is also then easily killed; but sometimes he flies rapidly, and when this happens in cover, there are few Sportsmen or the best shots that can kill him; it being allowed, that a Cock flying fast in cover, is one of the most difficult shots to be met with.

For this sport, the Springing Spaniel is the best. This shooting, contrary to all others, requires clamour and noise, and I beg leave to remark, that although Spaniels or Pointers with bells, may be of service here, it will be found, on experience, and a length of trial, not to answer in Pheasant-shooting.

For this sport, in Ireland, men or boys are preferred for beating covers. In that Kingdom, where the first Cock-shooting is to be found, the mountains are the places where Woodcocks are first met with; upon a thaw coming on, or a heavy fall of rain, these Birds leaves the covers and go to the mountains; and if you find a sheltered side of a hill, where the *ling* or *heath* is very long, you may be certain of good sport. *Mr. Pennant* informs us, that the female Woodcock may be distinguished from the male, by a narrow stripe of white along the

lower part of the exterior *veil* of the outermost feather of the wing. The same part, in the outermost feather of the male, is elegantly and regularly spotted with black and reddish white: In the bastard wing of each sex, is a small pointed, narrow feather, very elastic, and much sought after by painters, for a pencil.

A month or five weeks before their departure, it is common to see them in pairs, at the morning and evening flights, and to hear them, when flying, making a small piping noise, being at other times quite mute. These Birds are fattest in the months of December and January, but from the end of February, when they begin to pair, to the time of their departure, they are much leaner: It is probable that they assemble at that time to go abroad, as they are remarked then, and on their first arrival, to come and go in large flights; when this happens, the Sportsmen on the sea coast, have great diversion.

The places most remarkable in England for these Birds are *Devonshire*, *Sussex*, and the northern counties; in *Wales*, also they are found in great abundance; but if a Sportsman is fond of Cock-shooting, it will repay him well for his trouble to take a trip to *Ireland*, it is not material what part to recommend, as it is impossible almost to go to a bad place for sport: As to asking leave, it is needless, as the only cause of jealousy that can subsist, between the visitor and the owner of the ground, will be for not acquainting him of his coming, in order that he might

have it in his power to receive him in the usual hospitable manner; by providing beaters to shew him sport; giving him the best of fare, a good bottle of claret, and a sincere and hearty welcome; assuring his guest the longer he stays and honors him with his company, the more welcome he is, and the happier he will make him.

The success of *Lord o'Neil,* of *Shane's-Castle, county of Antrim,* and *Captain Higginson,* in Cock-shooting, at *Killarney,* some years ago, will furnish my readers with some idea of the number of Woodcocks that are to be found in *Ireland;* being at *Killarney,* on a shooting excursion, in the space of a fortnight they sent one hundred and seventy couple of Woodcocks into the city of *Corke,* although they were not first-rate shots; but this, strange as it may appear to those who are not in the habit of seeing so many, is nothing in comparison to what has been done in *Ireland.* A *Mr. Hanbury,* and his Keeper, in *Wales,* not many years ago, brought in one week, eighty couple of Cocks, which they killed in *Glamorganshire,* and this was thought capital sport. There have been many wagers decided, in *Ireland,* respecting what number of Cocks one gun would kill in a day; I shall mention only one: The *Earl of Clermont,* killed fifty couple in one day; and it is well known, that there have been frequently killed in *Ireland,* above seventy couple in a day. The Compiler, himself, one season shot above two hundred and thirty couple.

On the 21*st* of January, 1804, a *milk white* Woodcock was shot

by the Gamekeeper of *A. Ludlow, Esq.* in the woods adjacent to *Heywood-House,* near *Westbury, Wilts,* which is preserved as a great curiosity.

Before I conclude this subject, I beg leave to state a circumstance that must appear very extraordinary, but can be authenticated, on inquiry, at the Poulterer's shop.

In *July,* 1803, a Poulterer, who resides near *Craig's-Court, Charing-Cross,* had a couple of Woodcocks hanging in his shop, for sale; of this the Compiler has been assured, by undoubted authority, by a person who, from observing so great a curiosity at that time of the year, was induced to ask the price, which was fourteen shillings. The gentleman declared he handled them, and never knew Cocks in finer condition in the height of the season than they were.

J. West del. T. Medland sculp.

THE SNIPE.

SNIPES make their appearance in England, Ireland and Scotland, in autumn, and remain until the following spring: It is generally supposed that they come from and return to *Germany* and *Switzerland*, to breed, when they leave these countries, but it is certain many remain with us during the summer, and breed in the marshes; laying at the latter end of May, or beginning of June, to the number of five or six eggs.

M. de Buffon assures us, that there are two sorts of Snipes, and he asserts that the small one, called the *Jack* Snipe, is not the male; but, from undoubted authority and experience, it is well known to the contrary. There are but two different kinds

the common Snipe (the *Jack's* female) and a larger one, seldom found in this country, and twice as large as the common Snipe, which weighs only four ounces; when the scarce Bird weighs nearly nine, and is by some called a whole Snipe; but as to plumage, shape, and formation, they are nearly the same.

Snipes are, in winter, very usually inhabitants of marshy and wet grounds, they prefer these where there are rushes. They resort to the mountains often; and in hard frosty weather are to be found close by the edge of such springs as are not frozen, and also in great abundance on the moors, in the heath, where they resort for shelter. In the breeding season, if they are disturbed, they soar very high, particularly the *Jack*, which, on the wing, is observed to make a noise very like a goat, and more particularly in the act of descending, when he comes so close to the ground, that any one would suppose he was going to pitch, instead of which he ascends again with great rapidity; some Sportsmen suppose, that the noise he makes proceeds from his wings, by reason of his rapid descent.

Snipes are to be found in every quarter of the globe; in Egypt and the East-Indies they are in great abundance; but very few parts of Europe can boast of such Snipe-shooting as Ireland, where the quantity is great beyond conception; to prove which, some time ago a shilling a dozen for them in the markets there, was considered an extravagant price. Snipe-shooting is a sport the best calculated (Grousing excepted) to try the keenness of the

sportsman, to ascertain his bottom, and if he can stand labour, water, mire, swamps, and bogs; he should be possessed of a strong constitution, not liable to catch cold, and have all the fortitude, as well as exertion of a Water Spaniel; he should be habitually inured to wet, dirt, and difficulty, and not be deterred by cold or severe weather.

In several places there are a great quantity of Snipes to be found in this kingdom, one of which, more particularly, is *Eel-Moor*, near *Hartford-Bridge*, upon the western road from *London*.

In *Ireland*, in the *bottoms* of the county of *Limerick*, about *Charleville*, these Birds are in the greatest abundance, as it is not uncommon to hear of a person shooting twenty brace of them in a morning. The late *Sir George Dunbar*, of the Fourteenth Regiment of Light Dragoons, when quartered at *Charleville*, won a considerable wager by shooting forty-three brace, between ten o'clock in the morning and four in the afternoon; and what appears still more extraordinary is, that although there are so many Sportsmen about that place, who follow these Birds, and others who net them, yet you find always enough of sport the day following; for there seems to be as many Snipes, after two months destruction, as there were at the beginning of the season. The Compiler, himself, has shot twenty brace frequently in a day, in the county of *Corke*; and in the county of *Limerick*, has fired so often, that he has been forced to wait for the barrel of the gun to cool, before he durst attempt to re-load.

The net seems to be the most destructive, and is used with great success in *Ireland*, as follows: it must be about half as long again as the Partridge-net, with the mashes much smaller and not quite so deep; two strong men, hold each end of the net, and run down the wind with it, as fast as possible, having not time, even to look where they are going, as they must constantly mind the net, to see when a Bird strikes it, that they may let it fall, by which means they secure these Birds; they get, of course, very severe falls, from the attention they are obliged to pay to the net, but are amply repaid, it being no uncommon circumstance for them to take one or two hundred brace, in a very few hours (especially if the day is dark and windy, which is the most favourable time both for gun and net): The top part of the net gets so forward, that by the time the Snipe perceives it, and rises, when on striking the lower part of it, he is secured. One netted Snipe, is worth twenty that are shot.

They are usually very fat, but are not reckoned in season until the first frost sets in, although they are killed in many parts of England during the summer months.

The Snipe is generally allowed difficult to be shot, by reason of the many turnings and twistings which it makes, when on the wing; but this supposed difficulty is easily surmounted, by coolness and practice: There are several other birds a great deal more difficult.

Snipes, when plenty, afford very excellent sport, it being al-

lowed to be the pleasantest, on account of the quick succession of shots; this is also the best shooting for practice, seldom failing to make indifferent shots most excellent ones. There is no shooting that presents such a variety of shots, scarcely any two being alike. These Birds usually fly against the wind, therefore every Snipe-Shooter, should walk down it, as by that means, the Bird, if he rises before him, will fly back, and coming round him, describe a kind of circle, or at least, his flight, for a certain distance, will not lengthen the shot, allowing him a certain time, to cover the bird, and take good aim; for if he gets up before him, and should by chance go down wind, or from him, it is then the most difficult shot: It will be proper, in this case, to let the Bird get a little distance from him, as then he will fly steadier, and the slightest grain will fetch him to the ground.

Pointers are made use of, by many, in shooting this species of Birds, and what is very singular, although these Birds are so diminutive, in comparison with Game which Pointers are most accustomed to, yet they will stand equally staunch to them; even to the *Jack* Snipe, which is the smallest of these Birds. If you make use of a Pointer, it ought to be a very old staunch one, for two reasons; the first is, that this diversion not only spoils young ones, but slacks their mettle, as the points come so fast upon them, that if shey become habituated to Snipes, they will not look for other Game; by reason of their getting a number of points without any exertion: Secondly, a young Pointer

will be too quick for the Snipe ; on the contrary, an old one would not be able to go out of a very slow pace, and if under good command, will give the most satisfaction. When these Birds are so very plenty, the Snipe-Shooters never make use of a dog, as they always walk them up, which is found to answer best, and afford the most sport.

A Pointer that is much used for Grous or Partridge, should never be taken out Snipe or Pheasant-shooting; for if he once gets accustomed to Snipes, he will often baulk you on the moors, in the Grousing season; for as Snipes are frequently met with at that time on them, if he points one, he may often give you a good walk and trouble, before you get to him, supposing it is Game, and you are not a little mortified to find it only a Snipe: And if accustomed to Pheasants, he will be always puzzling about hedges, and not beat his ground as he ought to do. An old Pointer may also be made use of for Pheasants, as well as Snipes.

The *Jack* Snipe is esteemed the most difficult shot, although he seldom, on rising, makes any twistings or twinings, and will alight or pitch again, after being fired at, within a couple of hundred yards. Every Sportsman, that has been much accustomed to Snipe-shooting will allow, that a *Jack* Snipe will suffer himself to be fired at twenty times in the same field, and will pitch each time so close to the Shooter, that he frequently conceives that he has wounded him. They lie so very close, that a staunch Pointer might remain at his point *until the moon changed*,

as this Bird will not rise until forced to do so. A most curious circumstance occurred respecting a *Jack* Snipe, that was sprung several times by a *Mr. Molloy*, formerly a Quarter Master of the 64*th* Regiment; while he was quartered at *Geneva-Barracks, Ireland*, is well worth relating: He regularly, after his duty was done, or if he could possibly obtain leave for a day, used to equip himself for shooting, and always sprung this *Jack* Snipe, at which he fired and followed, and the Bird used to pitch so close to him at times, that he was confident he had shot it, and used to run to take it up, when, to his great surprise, it would rise and fly a little farther; he actually acknowledged he fired, one day, eighteen times at this Bird, and after shooting at it for the whole season, he happened to be crossing the bog it lay in, when he put it up, and exclaiming, "there's my old friend," threw his stick at it, and killed it on the spot. Whenever after, any of his brother Officers found a *Jack* Snipe, they were always sure to say, "there goes *Quarter Master Molloy*."

THE HARE.

THIS harmless, and inoffensive Animal, destitute of every means of defence, and surrounded on all sides by its enemies, would soon be utterly extirpated, if Nature, ever kind and provident, had not endowed it with faculties, by which it is frequently enabled to evade their pursuit, every part and member of it being formed for celerity.

Fearful of every danger, and attentive to every alarm, the Hare is continually upon the watch; and being provided with very long ears, which are moveable at pleasure, and easily directed to every quarter, it is warned of the most distant approaches of danger.

The head is round and short, of a convenient length; the ears long and lofty, from which, when pursued, she derives a great assistance, either sideways or from before; but the great perfection of her hearing arises from her sensibility of sounds from behind her, which is the great cause of her preservation.

Her eyes are large and prominent, adapted to receive the rays of light on every side, giving notice of more immediate alarms; they are constantly open, as her eye-lids are too short to cover them when she sleeps, and are so situated when she is in her *form*, as to enable her to observe every thing around her.

To these perfections may be added great swiftness, by which she leaves most of her pursuers far behind: Her hinder legs are much longer than the others, and are furnished with strong muscles, which gives this Animal a singular advantage in running up a hill; sensible of its powers in this respect, it is always observed to fly towards rising ground, when first started.

Thus formed for escape, the Hare might be supposed to enjoy a state of tolerable security; but as every individual is its enemy, although harmless and inoffensive, it has not a friend: It is seldom allowed to live out its natural term, which is about six or seven years.

Dogs and Foxes pursue it by instinct, wild Cats, and Weasels of all kinds, catch and devour it; Birds of Prey are still more dangerous enemies; while Man, far more powerful than all,

makes use of every artifice to obtain a Creature, which constitutes one of the numerous delicacies of his table.

If we were to enumerate the various stratagems which ingenuity has suggested, to harass this persecuted Animal, we should willingly omit the notable achievements, and gallant exploits of the chace: which, to a cool and dispassionate observer, seem to demand a nobler game.

"Poor is the triumph o'er the timid Hare."

Another remarkable means of safety to the Hare is its colour; which often resembles the ground whereon it sits, and secures it from the sight of its enemies: And, as a farther instance of the care of Providence in the preservation of its creatures, these, as well as some other animals in more northern regions, are observed to change their colour, and become perfectly white during winter, which renders them less conspicuous in the snow. Some instances occur of white hares being met with in Great-Britain.

The Hare is very prolific, it generally breeds nine months out of the twelve; the female goes with young thirty days, and generally brings three or four young ones at a litter: The rutting season begins in February.

During the day, Hares sleep or repose in their *seats,* and seldom remove from them: The night is the season when they go about in search of food, and they are sure to return to their *forms* or seats, by the same paths which they took on leaving them.

"'Tis instinct that directs the jealous Hare
"To chuse her soft abode. With steps revers'd,
"She forms the doubling maze; then ere the morn
"Peeps through the clouds, leaps to her close recess."

The breast of the Hare is capacious, and fitted to take more breath than that of any other animal, for her lungs are in a continual state of expansion during the time of her being hunted.

The Hare, when in her *form*, moves her nostrils frequently, and possesses the sense of smelling to a degree of perfection; the state of continual apprehension of danger which this poor Animal lives in, prevents its getting fat. In Hare-Warrens, the Warreners stop the ears of the Hares with wax, which prevents them from hearing, or being alarmed at any sound, and is sure to cause them to become fat, and they are often known to die from fatness.

The fur of the Hare is of great use in making hats, for which many thousands of its skins are imported from *Russia*.

The Hare was reckoned a great delicacy among the Romans, but was forbidden to the Jews, and held sacred amongst the Ancient Britons, who religiously abstained from eating it.

We are told, that *Boadicea*, immediately before her last conflict with the Romans, let loose a Hare, which she had concealed in her bosom; which taking what was deemed a fortunate course, was looked upon as a good omen. It is to this day deemed unclean by the Mahometans.

Hares have certain little bladders in their bellies, filled with a matter, out of which both sexes suck a certain humour, and anoint their bodies all over with it, by which they are defended from rain.

There are four different sorts of Hares; I don't mean to say there are four different species, but that they differ only in size, colour, speed and substance; according to the soil, climate, or fertility of the country in which they are bred.

The mountain Hares are by much the swiftest, and give the greatest diversion when coursed with Greyhounds. The field Hares are not so swift or nimble as those of the mountain. Hares that frequent woods, are easier killed than either the mountain or field Hares; and those that frequent marshes are more easily killed than any: It is remarked, that those Hares that live in marshes, are always diseased, and frequently die of a complaint of the nature of the measles, which seems to resemble the rot in sheep.

A Hare, when coursed, is not improvident or prodigal of her strength; she always pays attention to the force or swiftness of her pursuer, and regulates her motion and speed to his: If he is slow and sluggish, she is not profuse of her strength, yet she takes care to avoid the clutches of her pursuer, and reserves her principal strength for the time of her greatest necessity.

A Hare leaves a stronger scent in woods than any where else, and young ones leave a greater scent than old ones; for as they are weaker in their limbs, they tread heavier.

A Hare can foresee the change of weather, and adapts her seat to it: If the weather is fine, she sits facing the wind, and if she finds a change about to take place, she will shift, and sit with the wind in her back; and when started, will either run down the wind or sideways.

Nothing more conduces to bring Hares about any place, than planting a tree called the *Liburnam*, and as long as that remains in any young plantations, every other tree will be perfectly safe from them. There can be nothing more truly ridiculous, than the assertions advanced by many writers, that Hares possess the property of *superfœtation*, and the idea (of hermaphrodite Hares, as well as that the males sometimes bring forth young, and that they become alternately male and female, occasionally performing the functions of either sex) must be despised, and scouted by any person of common sense, and more particularly by a sportsman. The *marbles** of a Jack Hare, are sometimes as plain to be seen as the testicles of some dogs, and are much larger, in comparison of the size of the animal, than those of any kind of dogs.

Pliny assures us that the flesh of Hares causes *sleep*, and that those who are in the habits of eating them, look, *fair*, *lovely* and *gracious*, for a week afterwards.

The flesh of the Hare, except of those that are scrophulous, is excellent food: The natives of the Eastern nations never eat it, being forbid by the laws of *Mahomet*, and is therefore

* *Marbles*, the sporting phrase.

most rigorously observed and abstained from. The blood of this Animal is sweeter, and held in higher estimation than the blood of any other. It possesses several qualities, when applied warm to the skin; it not only clears it, but renders it delicately white.

It is a sovereign remedy for the cure of certain diseases in women, and many lives have been saved by its being applied, when wanted for this purpose. It is necessary, on opening the Hare, to take a piece of coarse cloth and steep it well in the blood, some of which should be mixed with a glass of white wine, until the wine becomes of a reddish colour, and then it must be instantly applied to the patient. It is also certain to cure ring-worms, and the fur of this Animal will stop the most violent effusion of blood, in wounds or cuts, on application. The brains of a Hare, are said, to soften the gums of young children, at the period of cutting their teeth, and assuage a great deal of the shocking pain they undergo at that period, and also assist in cutting them sooner. Many people insist, that if the right or left fore-leg of a Hare, is carried between the shirt and the skin, it is a certain preventative against the cholic.

Hares will not frequent places where Rabbits are, for they disturb them by their continual running about: If you wish to approach a Hare, you must do it by a circuitous rout, and not go directly towards her, in her *form*, or else she will immediately start from it.

Skill, practice, and above all quickness, are eminently necessary to shoot Hares in a wood; either when they are hard run by dogs, or at the moment of starting up, or in view, and still more so when pursued by spaniels, that have chopped at but missed them. If at this time, the Hare crosses a road, or a pass cut through a wood, she darts like lightning, and scarcely gives the Sportsman time to prepare himself, unless the way is very broad.

The best, and indeed the only mode of being certain of shooting a Hare, if it should be a difficult shot, is to fire at it at an interval when it ceases to move; this may be done as follows: It will be allowed by every sportsman, that a Hare started or moved from her seat, if she does not find herself pursued, will sit up, to hear or perceive if there is any enemy at hand; and if a person has no dog with him, in a cover where there are many Hares, it will be necessary to try and shoot them before they slip into the thick parts of it; in order to effect this, as soon as he has perceived that he has moved a Hare, the moment he sees her, let him stand still, and give a whistle, upon which she will immediately sit up, when he must fire at her, and if he is expert he will find this method answer well.

I am sure that many of my readers can recal to their memory, that not many years ago a Hare was so tamed, as to be brought to beat a drum or tambourine, at *Sadler's-Wells*, before the audience.

In the years 1794, and 1795, the Compiler being on the Continent, in His Majesty's service, was an eye witness to the killing

of many Hares within the lines of the British Army. It was remarked, that when the camp took up fresh ground in the day time, the ensuing evening was always productive of some sport; for the Hares on going out to feed as usual, were chased from one line to another, very few indeed escaping; general shouts pursued them from regiment to regiment, and from line to line. It became necessary, at last, to make some rules respecting whose property they became, on being killed, as there were so many claimants for them; when it was pretty generally agreed, that whoever was the owner of the tent nearest to where the Hare was killed, became the proprietor.

A young Hare, that has obtained its full growth, is known from an old one, by feeling the knee joints of the fore-leg, with the thumb nail: When the heads of the two bones, which form the joints, are so contiguous, that little or no space is to be perceived between them, the Hare is old; if on the contrary, there is a perceptible separation between the two bones, the Hare is young, and is more or less so, as the two bones are more or less separated. It may also be known whether a Hare is young or old, but without pretending to ascertain the precise age, by compressing the under jaw; if it breaks at the point, immediately under the fore-teeth, upon a slight degree of pressure, the Hare is certainly a young one; but if considerable force is required, the contrary is as certain. To know a Leveret, there should

be a knob, or small bone near the foot, on its fore-leg, if not, it must be a Hare.

In *pricking* the Hare, the difference between the *Jack* and the *Doe*, may be easily discerned. In the *Jack*, the feet are small and pointed, the nails short. The *Doe's* feet are much larger, longer, and more spread; her nails are much longer, and she has a great deal more fur on her than the *Jack*; the difference may be also distinguished by the *buttons*, the *Jack's* are smaller and more short, because he is in a state of irritation, from his constant state of alarm, and his incessant movements.

The *scut* of the *Doe* is much larger than the *Jack's*, and in general, it is remarked by Sportsmen, they are always fatter than the *Jacks*; and it is assigned as a reason for it, that the *Does* feed quieter, and are not so alarmed as *Jack* Hares: It is inconceivable how far a *Jack* Hare will ramble, on a moonlight-night, in quest of a *Doe*, those who are in the habits of Hare hunting much, can best be satisfied about this assertion.

We shall dismiss this subject with the following story, which lately happened in *London*.

A Hare had been pursued by some gentlemen on horseback as far as *Hyde-Park Corner*, where they lost sight of her, owing to the number of coaches, &c. which were at the turnpike-gate: Puss taking advantage of their embarrassments, ran down *Piccadilly*, as far as the *Duke of Queensbury's*, where its progress was stopped, and Puss turned into the *Green-Park*, where

seeing a large dog, she returned back again into *Piccadilly*, turned up *Berkley-Street*, followed by an immense number of pedestrians of all descriptions; some with sticks, others with firelocks, and various implements of destruction. Puss crossed the *Square*, turned down *Brook-Street*, *Bond-Street*, *Conduit-Street*, and *Carnaby-Market*, the crowd increasing as they went along.

Puss kept a considerable distance a head, closely pursued by a man of the name of *Pyke*, who caught Puss alive in *Duflour's-Place*, by dint of running. Puss was kept for some time alive, and was to be seen at No. 36, in *Bond-Street*, facing *Duflour's-Place*. *Lord Amherst* and several gentlemen called to see her *Ladyship*, but great apprehension pervaded her pursuers and owners, lest *Lord A.* might have called to *enforce the Game Laws;* but their fears and apprehensions were soon dispelled, by being assured, his Lordship's Attorney advised him not to interfere in such a business, as so many causes on more *trivial* subjects were to be tried *the following Term.*

THE FOWLING-PIECE.

THE manufacture of Fowling-pieces has been brought to such perfection by different Gun-smiths, that it may be justly doubted whether any further improvement in them can be made.

The first object of every Sportsman that shoots, is his Gun, or Fowling-piece; it is from inattention to this Instrument that so many accidents almost daily occur. In point of equipment it is the very first thing to be considered and attended to, though some people are perfectly content with any thing that is called a Gun.

There are so many different opinions, respecting Fowling-pieces, that it is difficult to recommend any one in particular; but the Compiler takes the liberty of stating that kind of one, which by inquiry and experience, has been found to be most universally used, and to answer best.

The principal part of this Instrument is the barrel, which ought to possess the following properties.

First, it should have lightness, that it may incommode the person who carries it as little as possible. Secondly, sufficient strength, and other properties to prevent its bursting on the discharge, or in case of being over-loaded. Thirdly, it ought to be constructed in such a manner, as not to recoil with violence; and fourthly, it ought to be made of sufficient strength to carry the shot to as great a distance, as the force of the powder employed is capable of doing.

The Compiler has made it his particular business and care, to obtain every necessary information, from the most experienced Sportsmen, on this subject; and he is happy to find it perfectly coincides with the opinions and recommendations of the first Gun-makers, and his own experience.

It is a very mistaken idea that a Fowling-piece, which has the longest barrel, with an indifferent bore, is the best; as observa tion and experience will shew, that it is not to be credited, which the Compiler will, in the following pages prove, on the surest grounds, and from several repeated trials.

For pleasure and convenience, let your Fowling-piece be altogether as light as possible, but not so as to take away the necessary substance required for safety; yor are to consider that any defect in your barrel, may be attended with the loss of your hand, and perhaps your life. Your barrel, therefore, ought to

possess such a degree of strength, as not to make it liable to burst; which very light barrels, if they are badly filled and not evenly bored throughout, will certainly do; particularly if they should be in the least over-loaded, or strained by the shot, which often happens when they are not evenly bored; for the quality of the bore is of the greatest importance to the perfection of every barrel, as the least deviation from it, will not make amends for any deficiency that may occur, although the greatest accuracy might have been observed, in every other respect. In order to ascertain if the barrel is even bored, punch out a piece of pasteboard, of the exact diameter of the bore of your barrel, which press gently down the barrel to the touch-hole, with your ram-rod, and if it goes down well, without stopping, and easily, you may conclude the barrel is evenly bored. Let us now take into consideration what is to be said respecting the long barrel, and indifferent bore, so strongly recommended some years ago.

It was much the practice formerly, to shoot with barrels of great length, and the custom prevails yet in a number of places, with many *ancient* Sportsmen; but the experienced ones, of the present day, as well as all the famous Gun-makers assert, (and which is found, from trial, to be grounded on incontrovertible facts) that a barrel of two feet eight inches, or two feet ten inches, will throw shot as far, and with as much force, as one of five feet and a half in length; and therefore it has long been

determined that short barrels have decidedly the preference. Formerly it was supposed, that the longer the barrel was, the farther it would throw the shot; in fact, without any limitation, it has been very recently proved, that two Fowling-pieces, of equal bores, but not of equal length, that is, one of four feet, and the other of two feet ten inches, if fired at a mark, with an equal quantity of powder and shot, that the short piece will throw its shot as far as the long one; at least, the difference will be but very little, when you come to consider what a difference there is in the length of them; but as some doubts have arisen, whether short barrels would not exceed long ones, a trial has been the consequence, and the result was, that the preference was still given to the short barrel.

Balthazar Killar, a famous Gun-smith, assigns the following reason, why a short barrel should shoot better than a long one; and seems to think that the smallest circumstance cannot be advanced in favor of the latter; which is, the powder, when inflamed, ought to quit the cavity of the piece at a certain time, in order to exert its whole force upon the shot: And this it cannot do, in sufficient time in a long barrel, for, from its length, the powder by a longer stay, loses a great part of its force; which may also give an inequality in the shots, by giving a variation in the discharge, so as to destroy its rectilineal course, and throw it to one side or other of the mark. From this consideration, and from a multitude of experiments,

it appears, and is evident, that the Sportsman may choose what length of barrel he thinks proper, without any sensible detriment to the range of his piece.

A long barrel is very unhandy. and not so pleasant to carry as one of our modern Fowling-pieces. If a Sportsman should prefer a long barrel, let him always have the bore in proportion to its length; in that case, it may answer, if he is able to carry it; for when the long barrel comes to be properly fortified for safety, according to the length and the bore it ought to have, he will find it difficult to be able to carry it.

A friend of the Compiler's once conceived, that by getting a Fowling-piece of a large bore three feet long, by means of a very large charge, he would be enabled to kill his Game with a greater certainty, and destroy more of it; this Gun took for its charge, about *four* ounces of shot, but the repeated severe recoils it made, soon obliged him to give it up, and convinced him, that such a Gun served only to destroy and wound birds, which it did two or three at a time, and he scarcely ever got one of them: The bore was certainly the largest of its kind ever seen.

The idea that long barrels kill farther than others, arose from the long long pieces made use of for shooting Water-Fowl, which have been known to kill at an immense distance; without recollecting that these guns, sometimes four, five, or six feet long, are

made of great thickness, and substance; and that the barrels are so fortified, as to bear four charges of a modern Fowling-piece; the bore at the same time being exactly proportioned to the length, and which never can be fired without a rest.

The proper Fowling-piece to be chosen, by every Sportsman, depends upon various circumstances; for the stocking, &c. of what will suit one, will not another. I shall therefore recommend the best barrel in the first instance, and then proceed to the remaining appendages.

A barrel of two feet ten inches, with a three-quarter bore, or with a musquet bore, will be found to be the best, and to answer every purpose and season. If you bespeak a barrel of this kind, give directions to have it bored, in order to make it throw its shot close; for the barrel is always to be preferred that throws its shot the most close, round and even: If you give these directions in time, it will save trouble, as it can never be remedied, if it throws its shot so as to scatter it; as this is only to be guarded against in the first boring; and although Gun-smiths pretend, they can rectify this evil, and by boring over again make the barrel throw its shot rounder, it may succeed perhaps in one experiment out of an hundred: Besides, the weakness of the barrel, is occasioned more by the inequality of the bore, or calibre, which will be the certain cause of its bursting, than what is produced by the filing; and it may be assigned as a certain fact, that the inflamed fluid being suddenly expanded, at the

wider part, must suffer a compression before it can pass forward, and the whole force is then exerted against the weak part; for gunpowder acts in the radii of a circle, and exerts the same force on every part of the circumference of the circle, therefore the conclusion we may draw is, that a thin and light barrel, which is perfectly upright (that is to say, that is of equal thickness in every part of its circumference) is much less liable to burst, than one which is considerably thicker and heavier, but which, from being badly filed or bored, is left of unequal strength in its sides.

If we take into consideration, the cause of barrels so frequently bursting, we shall find it is the bad quality of the iron employed, which is the absolute means and cause of the same; but to guard against bad iron, and to rectify this defect, it is only to purchase a Fowling-piece from a Gun-maker of known reputation. With regard to the defects, arising from the bad quality of the iron, it is impossible to say any thing certain, as the choice of materials depends entirely on the Gun-smith; sometimes the causes arise from bad metal, or the insufficiency of workmanship. A great advantage may be certainly drawn to the manufacturers of barrels, from an accurate knowledge of the force of gunpowder, and the velocity of the shot; these points being once determined, it may be known how strong barrels should be, by which all unnecessary weight of metal might be spared on one hand, and all danger on the other; for a force equal to that

that which impels the shot is exerted on the inside of the Piece, and if the barrel has not sufficient strength to resist this force, it must of necessity burst.

Take care to give directions that the barrel is of stubs twisted, with a patent breech, and a gold touch-hole, and in every other respect as plain as possible, guarding against a bell muzzle. It will be universally allowed that there exists a vacancy or dip between the breech and muzzle of most barrels, in a greater or less degree and it will not be, I suppose, disputed, that every barrel should not have this dip or vacancy, and that it should be as straight as an arrow. As I caution every sportsman not to buy a barrel with this defect, in order to ascertain it to a nicety, get a piece of timber perfectly straight, of the length of the barrel, and place one end on the breech, the other on the muzzle, making a hole in the stick at the end placed on the muzzle, in order to admit the sight of the gun to go in, when you will readily perceive any vacancy that is in it.

When you can get a barrel to please you in every respect, the next thing we shall find of material consequence is the stock: The wood which is most esteemed, and most commonly made use of for stocking guns, is walnut, which by the most eminent gunmakers is allowed to answer their purpose the best; and the only choice here to be made, is, that the grain is even and close, and as free as possible from knots and burrs, which, although they may be said to add to the beauty of the stock, seldom fail to take

away from its strength, unless they are entirely confined to the butt part of the stock. As to the curvature of the stock, no particular degree can be laid down as a rule, or assigned as a standard. As to the length and form of it, it may be laid down as a principle, that a long stock is preferable to a short one, and at the same time rather more bent than usual, for this reason, that it is said to sit firmer to the shoulder; the Compiler admits that, but then a long stock is very apt to catch before you get it up, and placed to your shoulder as it should be, which will cause you to shoot over your game. Let any sportsman be asked, if it does not happen often, that in bringing up the piece it frequently catches, and does not come firm, and into its proper place, which is certainly caused by the stock's being too long, for when this catch happens, you cannot bring the muzzle of the piece to bear properly, so as to cover the object.

As to the bent of stocks in general, that must be made choice of according to the length of the neck of the person, and the long and short stock according to the length of the arms. Some sportsmen like crooked stocks, others straight; some short, some long. It is certain, however, that the stock may be formed, so as to be better suited for one man than another; for a tall long-armed man, the stock should certainly be longer than for one of a less stature, and shorter arm; a straight stock is proper for him who has high shoulders and a short neck, for if it is much bent, it will be very difficult for him, especially in the quick motion re-

quired in shooting at a flying or running object, to place the gun-stock firmly to his shoulder.

For, as I have before remarked, the upper part alone would in general be fixed where it ought not, which would not only raise the muzzle, and consequently shoot over the game, but the recoil would be much more sensibly felt, than if the whole stock was firmly placed to the shoulder. Let us suppose for a moment, that the sportsman brings the butt home to his shoulder, and that it is in its proper place, I dare say, after a trial, he will admit that it is a difficult matter to be able to level his piece, so as to cover the object he wishes to aim at. On the contrary, a man with low shoulders, and a long neck, requires a very crooked stock; for if it is straight, he will, in the act of lowering his head to that place of the stock on which his cheek should rest in taking aim, feel a constraint, which he never experiences, when by the proper degree of bent, the stock lends him some assistance, and as it were, meets his aim half way. It must be certainly allowed by every sportsman, that there is more in habit to govern a person as to choice, than any thing or circumstance that the Compiler can advance, to those who are much used to shooting; to those who are not, let them follow the directions as above, always if possible; and if it suits them, take a short stock in preference to a long one, for two reasons; the first is, it is not so liable to catch in bringing it up to the shoulder as a long one, and

secondly, it is easier, if it should be too high or too low, to rectify so instantaneously, as the more easily to cover the object.

The next material part of the Fowling-piece to be taken into consideration is the Lock, which it is necessary to be very exact about; it is certain that the degree of perfection locks have been brought to, and the elegance and neatness of finishing scarce leaves us any thing to hope or require in addition to what is got in a good lock, for disappointment need not be feared by any sportsman in the essential qualities of a lock, provided he goes to the price of a good one; in buying of which, let care be taken that it is even and well filed, without any flaws, the springs easy, and not too stiff, well proportioned to each other, but at the same time to tell well on catching each other, and on the least touch of your thumb to the hammer, it should fly back, or if you wish to shut it, it should go down on the slightest touch. A moderate degree of force is sufficient to produce the required effect, and whatever exceeds this, proves detrimental, by rendering the trigger difficult to be drawn, or producing such a stroke as to break the flints, or throw the piece from the direction in which it was pointed; if the main-spring be very strong, and the hammer-spring weak, the cock is often broken for want of sufficient resistance to its stroke, until it is stopped all at once by the check of the cock-plate; whilst on the other hand, if the hammer-spring is stiff, and the main-spring weak, the cock has not sufficient force to drive back the hammer, and in both cases

the collision between the flint and the steel is too slight to produce the necessary fire; the face of the hammer may be also too hard, or too soft, the former is known by the flint scarcely making any impression upon it, and the sparks so produced, being few, and very small; the latter may be known by the flint cutting deep into the hammer at every stroke, when the sparks are also few, and of a dull red colour. When the strength of the springs, and the temper of the hammer, are in thin close degree, or as they should be to constitute both good work and a good lock, the sparks are numerous, brilliant, and accompanied with a considerable whizzing noise.

To explain these differences, it becomes necessary to observe, that the sparks produced by the collision of the flint and steel, are particles of the metal driven off in a strongly heated state, and which falling among the powder, inflames it instantaneously. By snapping a gun or pistol over a sheet of white paper, we may collect these sparks, and by submitting them to a microscope, demonstrate the truth of these assertions. If the sparks are very brilliant, and accompanied with a whizzing noise, we shall find the particles collected on the paper to be little globules of steel, which were not only melted, but have actually undergone a considerable degree of vitrification from the intensity of the heat excited by the collision, their surface resembling exactly the flag thrown out from an iron foundery; when the face of the hammer is too hard, the particles which the flint strikes off are

so small that they are cooled before they fall into the pan, and when the hammer is too soft, the particles driven off are so large as not to be sufficiently heated to fire the powder.

A gold pan is not to be recommended, but if any sportsman is partial to one, let care be taken to have it *dove-tailed in*; they are universally dropped by every sportsman of the present day; for if they don't fly out in the course of time, they will wear, melt, or burn out, as the iron must be softened before they can be put in, which is very liable to rust, and this destroys its connection with the gold.

Let us now suppose a gun, or Fowling-piece ready finished, and that a sportsman wishes to buy it with all the perfections necessary, yet there still remain two circumstances that demand our more immediate attention, than any thing yet mentioned of a Fowling-piece; the one is to see it proved before you fire it, for I strongly recommend every sportsman not to be satisfied by any assurance from a gun-maker, but have proof positive, and occular demonstration; the trouble is none, and if it should be thought so, it should be overbalanced by fear and necessary caution, for a gun may be fired once and not burst. Three circumstances may occur unperceived, that render barrels so liable to imperfections, and cause them to burst, which are principally the chink, the crack, and the flaw; whenever these exist in a barrel, the greatest danger is to be apprehended, besides they recoil with great violence. It becomes necessary to state

these three imperfections: The first is a small rent in the direction of the length of the barrel; the second across it, and the third is a kind of seal, or small plate adhering to the barrel by a narrow base, from which it spreads out like the head of a nail from its shank, and when separated, leaves a pit or hollow in the metal. The chink and flaw are of much more consequence than the crack in fire-arms, the force of the powder being exerted more upon the circumference than the length of the barrel. The flaw is much more frequent than the chink, the latter seldom if ever occurring, but in plain barrels, formed out of a single plate of iron, and then only, when the metal is deficient in quality. When flaws happen on the outside, they are of no great consequence, but on the inside, they are apt to lodge moisture and foulness, which corrodes the iron, and thus the cavity enlarges continually, till the piece bursts. This accident, however, may arise from many and various causes, besides this defect in the barrel. The best of Fowling-pieces will certainly burst, if the shot is not placed home on the powder, for the smallest space, or vacancy between the powder and the shot, is sure almost to burst the gun, particularly if hard rammed down, which being so, would induce many sportsmen to conceive the shot to be compleatly home on the powder; but it often deceives, and not until the ram-rod hops or bounds two or three times, is the shot secured and thoroughly home. Of this truth, *Mr. Robbins* gives an instance, and at the same time accounts for it; he assures us

that a moderate charge of powder when it has expanded itself through the vacant space, and reaches the shot, will, by the velocity each part has acquired, accumulate itself behind the shot, and will thereby be condensed prodigiously, whence, if the barrel is not of an extraordinary strength in that part, it must infallibly burst. He further informs us, to support this information, and to prove the truth of this assertion, that he found it happen in a musquet forged of very tough iron, for having charged it with twelve penny weights of powder, and placing the ball loosely, sixteen inches from the breech, on the firing of it, the part of the barrel just behind the bullet was swelled out double its diameter, like a blown bladder, and two large pieces of two inches in length, were burst out from it. To prove that a barrel will not burst, get a ball to fit the exact bore, and put the exact weight of the ball in powder, with which load and fire it off by a train; if it does not burst, you need not be under any apprehension. This is called the Tower-proof; or put in double the quantity of powder and shot. *Mr. Joseph Manton's* admirable method of *water-proving,** does him infinite credit, as it surpasses all other methods; for any barrel that undergoes this proof, may be relied on as safe; as an instance, not one of his *barrels* has as yet ever been known to burst. But in speaking of this admirable Gunsmith, I should conceive my work very deficient were I not

* Method of *water-proving*, see Patent Breech.

to state many other improvements of his, which will be seen under the title of *Patent Breech.*

The second circumstance, is ascertaining the charge of a Fowling-piece, that gives the surest range, and makes it shoot the best, besides trying with what force it throws its shot, &c.

In order to ascertain the exact charge of any Fowling-piece that will give the best and surest range, the following may be observed, and laid down as a rule, in the mean time recollecting that different barrels, although they are of the same bore and length, will not always shoot equally well with equal charges, and which will be found to be the case on trial.

Put in first a common charge of powder and shot, and try it at forty yards, at a large sheet of brown paper, or two or three sheets joined together would be much better, in order to see how the piece throws its shot and garnishes. If it should recoil and not throw the shot even, lessen the charge until you find the shot thrown round and even; but if it should not recoil, and the shot seems much scattered, increase your charge, until you find the range increase to a certain point, after which, if you put in more powder, you will find it diminish, then after a few trials, the charge which throws the greatest number of pellets into a sheet of paper regularly, and the shots even, seemingly with equal force, you ought to rest satisfied as to the exact charge, and get the charge of your powder flask and shot pouch made to hold that charge. However, still to add more on this subject

it seems to be an opinion pretty generally received and established, that every barrel has a particular load, with which it will shoot with greater certainty and effect. The charge for a Fowling-piece of a common calibre, was generally supposed to be a drachm and a quarter, or at most of a drachm and a half of good powder, and an ounce, or an ounce and a quarter of shot. But when shot of a larger size is used, such as number five, the charge of shot may be increased one fourth, for the purpose of counter-balancing, in some degree, what the size of the shot loses in the number of pellets, and also to enable it to garnish the more. However, the Compiler begs leave to recommend the following method to ascertain the charge of any Fowling-piece, which from experience, has proved the surest to give every sportsman satisfaction, and when tried, makes no doubt but it will prove satisfactory, and gain him universal approbation. Weigh your Fowling-piece, stock, lock, and all, as if prepared for the field, and allow the following proportions: For a single barrel gun, weighing six pounds, or a double barrel gun six and a half, two drachms and one half of powder, and one ounce and a half of shot, and so in proportion, heavier or lighter. When we come to consider how highly necessary, and what a discovery of importance it is to every sportsman to ascertain the charge that gives the surest range, of Fowling-pieces of different dimensions, how highly necessary is it for every one to ascertain the exact charge of his own, for depend on it, in the general loading of

Fowling-pieces, they are more frequently over-loaded than under, which not only prevents their shooting, but is sure to throw every sportsman off his aim; and by the violence of the recoil, will not only bruise his shoulder and face severely, but will bruise and cut the inside of the third finger, which is next to that you pull with, by the guard of the trigger being forced, by the severe recoil against it.

Overloading with shot, is certainly attended with this consequence, that the powder has not sufficient strength to throw the shot to its proper distance; more than half the grains of shot, comprising the charge, by their too great quantity and weight, will strike against each other and fall by the way, and those that reach the mark, will produce but little or no effect. On the other hand, if you over-load with powder, and put little shot, you will find the shot will scatter so very much, that except the object at which you fire, is very near to you, that it will be altogether as useless as over-loading with shot.

As an opinion has generally prevailed among sportsmen, that by some unknown manœuvre, a gun-smith is able to make a Piece loaded with shot, throw the contents so close together, that even at the distance of forty or fifty paces, the whole will be confined within the breadth of a hat; it will be right therefore to observe, that the closeness or wideness with which a piece throws its shot, is liable to a great number of variations from causes, which no skill in the maker can possibly ascertain: So variable

are the causes, that there is not the smallest chance of making a Fowling-piece, throw its shot close twice successively, but the closer the wadding is on the shot (not rammed hard) the closer the shot will throw in a small compass; from this we should be inclined to think, the closeness of the shot would seem to depend on preventing the flame of the powder from getting in amongt the grains of the shot, for which reason, a method is much in practice by those who shoot for wagers at a mark, and found to answer very well although it seems tedious; the method is, dividing your charge or pellets of shot into small quantities, and putting between each quantity, every time, a little tow, paper, or wadding of some kind, which will prevent the flame from getting in amongst the grains, and scattering them. Some gunsmiths, when gentlemen are seeing a Fowling-piece shot, before they purchase it, often put the whole charge of shot in their mouth, which they conceive, from being moistened, causes it to be thrown close and round.

In firing a piece, a curious circumstance often occurs: The grains, instead of being equally distributed over the space they strike, are thrown in clusters of ten, twelve, fifteen or more, whilst several considerable spaces are left without a grain in them; sometimes one-third, or one-half of the charge will be collected in a cluster of this kind, and often the whole charge will be collected into one mass, so as to pierce a board near one inch thick, at the distance of forty or forty-five yards.

Small barrels are more liable to this clustering than large ones, and *M. de Marolles* assures us, that this is the case, especially when the barrels are new, and likewise when they are fresh washed, though he acknowledges it did not always happen with the barrels he employed, even after they were washed. It is probable, therefore, that the closeness of the shot, depends on some circumstance relative to the wadding, rather than the mechanism of the barrel; if this should be the case, how essential is it for every sportsman to try and find out the wadding, that will make his Fowling-piece shoot the best; therefore, let us now take under our consideration, the different kinds of wadding, of which there is a variety, and as many different opinions respecting each kind. The use of wadding is, to carry the shot in a body to a certain distance from the muzzle of the piece; some sportsmen like brown paper, others hat, some cork, and many a kind of cloth called *shepherds fearnought:* I have known some praise leather and card, and often tow. Let us now take them separately, and try if we can form a judgment which to choose.

The wadding which is composed of soft and pliable materials, has certainly the preference; we are told in favor of brown paper, that it combines suppleness with consistence, moulds itself to the barrel, and never falls to the ground within twelve or fifteen paces from the muzzle of the piece, but all paper contains a certain quantity of oil. Pasteboard, or any kind of paper

wadding has oil in it, of course it is not, I suppose, necessary to explain, that any thing greasy is sure to cause, not only a most severe recoil, but is almost certain to burst the barrel.

Hat-wadding has this perfection, that in going down the barrel it cleans the inside, for the fur on its edges, carries all the dirt down on the top of the powder, when the shot will, by that reason, fly more regular than if that foulness remained, which the hat takes away.

Cork-wadding has been extolled for the virtue of increasing the range and closeness of the shot; The reason why the Compiler prefers cork-wadding is, it certainly produces a greater effect than a wadding of paper, for cork stops the barrel more hermetically, and prevents the elastic fluid, produced by the explosion of the powder, from escaping in any way between the partition of wadding; and the charge preserves all its force to the mouth of the piece, and thereby renders the effect of the powder the greater, which must of course increase the range and closeness of the shot, and of course will kill game *clean** and like a sportsman.

As to the wadding of shepherd's cloth (punched as all those waddings of any substance should be) it has not substance enough when punched, being composed of too slight and pliant a material to give that resistance all wadding should, to carry the shot in a body to a certain distance from the muzzle of the piece, by which means the charge loses its proper force, besides a certain

* *Clean,* a term used by sportsmen when the game is shot dead.

portion of the shot which is more immediately in contact with the wadding, will be melted by the explosion of the powder.

Tow wadding may be very good, but it requires a great quantity of it to be able to give the necessary resistance required; and tow is dangerous, by reason of some particles that may at times remain behind, which has often occurred.

Card wadding is approved of by many, but it very frequently turns in putting it down, and often causes great delay; and leather wadding is of too rigid a substance. Having now stated the different waddings, I shall proceed with a few more observations, and recommend the wadding that is decidedly the best. It is, I suppose, needless to remark that these waddings should be cut out by a punch, made to the exact bore of your fowling-piece, and the smallest deviation, if too small or too large, is of such consequence that it is really incumbent on every sportsman to be very exact and particular.

Many sportsmen are of opinion that the wadding, of whatever material it may be composed, or whether it be rammed loose or tight into the barrel has no effect, either in the range of the shot or the closeness with which they are thrown. Now although it may be granted that the material which covers the shot, and which is used only for the purpose of keeping it down, is of little importance, yet the substance which covers the powder is undoubtedly of much consequence, it should be quite close in the barrel and on the powder, without being rammed too hard; you

must not ram it hard down, by drawing the ramrod out, and returning it with a jerk of the arm, so as to follow the erroneous old proverb—

> Ram your powder, and not your lead,
> And you'll be sure to kill stone dead.

The consequence of following this rule, and of ramming powder down, is when the powder becomes compressed some of the grains must be bruised, which will prevent the powder not only from taking fire altogether, but will prevent the explosion from being quick, and will spread the shot too wide; for example, if you will put a charge of powder in a gun or a pistol, and ram it hard and fire it at a sheet of white paper, you will find many of the grains come out as they went in, quite whole, which is occasioned by its being so hard rammed that the top part of the charge did not take fire, but was blown out by the part that took fire: if you ram powder it also encreases the recoil considerably.

Indeed it is not of any consequence how thin the wadding is that divides the shot from the powder, if it does but keep them asunder, and for that reason a wadding of thin hat over the powder, gently placed down, is the best, for the reason before assigned, that hat cleans the barrel as it goes down, and as cork is of a pliable nature, and possesses a great degree of elasticity, I would recommend it for a wadding over the shot, for as it goes down the barrel, it will mould itself close to the sides and encrease prodigiously the range of the shot.

I shall next proceed by giving a few directions respecting the loading fowling-pieces, with the addition of a few other remarks. In loading your fowling-piece, and when in the act of pouring in the powder, always keep the muzzle as erect as possible, in order to prevent as few grains as you possibly can from adhering to the sides of the barrel on going down; but this evil will be in a great measure obviated by the hat, which will take off these grains, and carry them down with it; however it will not be amiss to give the but of the stock a gentle stroke against the ground after loading, with both powder and shot, prior to the wadding being put down, which will settle the charge.

Immediately after the piece is fired, as little time as possible should be lost in re-loading, for while the barrel is warm there is not any danger of moisture lodging in it to prevent the powder from falling to the bottom, as it is found the coldness of the barrel, and perhaps the moisture it imbibes condensed in it, diminishes the force of the powder.

Many sportsmen are in the habit of priming before they load, which is no doubt the safest method, but other sportsmen assert it is better not to do so, unless the touch-hole is larger than usual; relative to the touch-hole, I think that of the conical form a great improvement, but I cannot say I approve of its widening so much as it does in the patent breech, as the force of the fire against the opening into the pan, is greatly encreased by it.

The reason for wishing every sportsman to prime first is, that by so doing, it serves in some measure as a vent, should any particle of fire remain behind in the barrel, for the air being prevented from coming through the touch-hole, will be sure to put out any fire that remains behind in the barrel, and shutting the pan alone will not be sufficient;* from experience, I believe it is not necessary for me to take pains to convince the public that at periods there remains some particle of fire in a barrel, particularly when wadded with *tow*, *brown paper*, or *shepherd's cloth*, and which never occur with either *hat* or *cork* wadding. By the way of proving this assertion, the Compiler thinks it incumbent on him to relate the following accident, which not only happened to a friend of his, but to which he was an eye witness.

This gentleman was constantly in the habit of loading before he primed: When out Snipe-shooting one day, in company with the Compiler, and the shots coming very fast on him, he fired a dozen shots, and on loading the thirteenth time in pouring the powder into the barrel it took fire, and blew the powder flask to pieces, part of which wounded him severely in the face, blew off two of his fingers, and nearly blinded him. The *Earl of Kingston* a few seasons ago assured the Compiler, that in loading his fowling-piece with a spring-top charger, that by some accident it took fire, blew the flask to pieces, burnt his hand severely,

* Mr. Manton has most ingeniously invented a *pan* which obviates all this danger and inconvenience.

scorched off one whisker, both eye-lashes, and deprived him of his sight for a considerable time, and that yet frequently his sight fails him even to this day.

Let me recommend to every sportsman to prime first, and while he is in the act of filling the charger of his powder-flask with powder, to place the palm of his hand on the muzzle, for if it is placed thus, let the period be ever so short, it will have effect enough to extinguish any fire that might accidentally remain in the barrel.

I shall now conclude on the subject of fowling-pieces, by observing, in respect to the close shooting of barrels, I cannot pretend to recommend any certain remedy to be used to make them throw close, for from every information I could ever derive on that subject, or indeed from all the contrivances which have been given to us in every book on the subject of shooting, there does not appear one which seems calculated to answer the end which was proposed. The great number of gun-smiths are sensible of this, and therefore seldom practice them, unless to indulge the whim of their customers.

As far as every reason and experience gives us an opportunity of judging or determining upon these propositions, we ought to reject all the expedients that have hitherto been proposed, and give a decided preference to those barrels usually made, that is to say, to those whose calibre is very smooth, and perfectly cylindrical throughout; barrels of this description have long sup-

ported their credit among the best sportsmen, whilst the intended improvements have all experienced but a very temporary reputation, and are now totally laid aside.

Every sportsman should forbear to determine upon the merits or defects of their pieces, until they have given them a fair, patient, and impartial trial, by varying the quantity of powder and shot in different ways; and if they would act only in this manner, I should conceive there would be fewer complaints made of the modern fowling-pieces. The Compiler could give several instances of sportsmen, who have hastily condemned their fowling-pieces as bad ones, and have laid them aside, and thrown a censure on the maker, although they have not given them an impartial trial, and these very pieces have afterwards proved how undeservedly this censure has been thrown on them; for by entreating many acquaintance not to be so precipitate in giving their opinion, and passing sentence, and after a few trials with different charges, have praised the piece as much as they before were inclined to condemn it.

The great and chief source of error, is that imprudent practice of over-loading, a practice so constantly used, which not only spoils your shooting, but it is impossible an overcharged piece can shoot. It will be found on experiment, if you underload it, will be much better than overloading, and all the objections will in some means be rectified, and will remove the bad opinion so generally entertained of barrels.

Every barrel according to its calibre and weight, has a certain quantity of lead, and a suitable one of powder, which will cause the piece to shoot with a greater certainty when ascertained, than all the other rules laid down for loading a fowling-piece: and this plan of loading is laid down by the Compiler in the preceding pages, with which and a few trials, will prove the most certain method, and will not fail to give universal satisfaction.

If we (suppose for experiment) encrease the quantity of shot (after having ascertained the exact load) above this we shall find the force of the discharge lessened, and at the same time add considerably to encrease the recoil, and if we encrease the charge of powder leaving the same charge of shot as before, we shall also find the recoil encreased, and the shot will be much more dispersed. It is a well-known fact, that large charges of powder in every barrel are found to disperse the shot very much, but when small charges are made use of, the shot is thrown more steadily and closely. It is therefore obvious, that we should not encrease the quantity of powder with an idea that it will throw the shot the farther, and kill at longer distances; by adopting such a notion, the encrease of the range of shot will be very trifling, and the scattering of it will be considerably encreased, but the Compiler has only to observe to his readers, that if a sportsman will only pay due attention, to find the quantity of powder and shot suitable to his fowling-piece, he may depend on it, and rest assured, that one will perform nearly as well as another.

THE RECOIL.

IN Fire-Arms, of every description, the explosion is invariably attended with a greater or less retrogade motion of the Piece, which is termed the Recoil; it is only when it is very violent that it becomes an object that requires the attention of the sportsman, to endeavour to find out the causes from which it arises, to enable the gunsmith to alter it.

There perhaps is not a more unpleasant sensation, to every sportsman, than violent recoils. When he knows his piece constantly does so, he finds but little pleasure, and dreads to fire, apprehensive of the severe strokes he is sure to receive from it; and generally a head ache ensues, which is sufficient to give any young sportsman a distaste for shooting.

I shall endeavour to account, in some measure, for the Recoil, and then describe one of the best methods, and indeed the only certain one of removing it.

An excessive Recoil is owing to an inequality in the bore of the barrel, being wider at one part than at another; and by this it will be occasioned, even when the inequality is too small to be perceived by the eye; the repulse which the expanding flame meets with, when passing from the wider to the narrower part, renders the recoil much greater than it would have been, had the bore been perfectly cylindrical.

The explanation of this upon mechanical principles, indeed is not very easy; for as it is an invariable law, that action and reaction are equal, we should be apt to suppose that every time a piece is discharged, it would Recoil, with the whole difference between the velocity of the shot and that of the inflamed powder; but were this the case, there is not a sportsman that would fire a Fowling-piece without being destroyed. The overloading of the Piece, is the reason of the Recoil; respecting sportsmen who are in the habit of over-loading with shot, such are properly ridiculed in a treatise published some time since, entitled, "*Cautions to Young Sportsmen;*" in which we find an advertisment levelled at some persons who were going to a Pidgeon shooting match, at *Ballingbear-Warren House*; it was as follows: "Take notice, that no person will be allowed to load with *more* than *four* ounces of shot." A gamekeeper to whom this author men-

tioned the story, told him he thought it a pretty fair allowance, and on being asked what charge and weight of shot he generally used, replied, he divided a pound into five charges.

It is more astonishing that those gnns, that gamekeepers have in use, do not more frequently burst, and that more accidents do not happen; but in order to give an idea how some keepers exceed all bounds in loading, a most extraordinary occurrence, related by the same Author, must astonish every sportsman.

A friend of the gentleman, who relates this story, seeing his keeper equipped for a Pidgeon match, had the curiosity to examine his charge, and after trying it with his rammer, expressed his surprise at finding it rather less than usual; "Oh! Sir," replied the keeper, "I have only put in the powder yet," and on putting in the shot, the charge altogether was *eleven* fingers: the reason he assigned was, "that he always liked to give *his piece a belly-full.*"

The strength of the Recoil, will be always found proportionable to the weight of the piece; the lighter the piece, the greater the Recoil; which will be increased by any thing which retards the passage of the shot, and is also augmented by the foulness of the barrel, after repeated discharges. Another reason for a piece recoiling, is from the breech-plug being made too short; sometimes, if the screw remain empty, as in this place part of the powder is lodged, which forms an obstacle to the explosion; it can scarce be shewn to stand in the way of it. We shall also

find that a barrel mounted upon a very straight stock will recoil much more than one which is considerably bent, as the curvi-ture serves to break and deaden the force of the Recoil. It often recoils through hurry, in bringing the piece up to the shoulder; for frequently it happens, that the sportsman is in such a haste, that the piece goes off in bringing it up to the shoulder; and a Recoil, produced from this impatience, is doubly felt, if it should be improperly placed near the shoulder: the hollow of the but should embrace the shoulder, firmly supported by the weight of the body.

The cause to which the majority of sportsmen attribute the Recoil, is the placing of the touch-hole at some distance from the breech-plug, so that the powder is fired about the middle, or towards its fore part, rather than at its base; to avoid this, some gunsmiths form a groove, or channel, in the breech-plug, as deep as the second or third turn of the screw; the touch-hole opening into this channel, and thus forcing its powder from its very lowest part. This, they assert, increases the inflammation and force of the powder, but my readers may depend upon it, that the distance of the touch-hole from the breech, has very little if any share in the increase of the Recoil.

It appears, however, from a number of experiments made upon the subject, by *M. Le Clerc*, gunsmith to the King of France, that it made very little difference with regard to the Recoil, whether the touch-hole was close to the breech, or an

inch distant from it; the only circumstance to be attended to, with respect to its situation, is, that the touch-hole should not be quite close to the breech-plug, as if it should be, it would be oftener choaked up, than if about a quarter of an inch from it.

The following experiments were made by *M. Le Clerc*, who was supposed to be the best informed person in the world, in his profession. These experiments were made with a barrel which was thirty French inches in length, (nearly thirty-two English measure) and weighed, together with the loaded plank, upon which it was fixed, twenty-eight pounds. This barrel had four touch-holes, which could be stopped with screws; the charge consisted of one drachm, twelve grains of powder, from the Royal manufactory, and of one ounce, eighteen grains of shot, called small *four*; this was fired at a sheet of paper, measuring twenty inches by sixteen, French measure, placed at the distance of twenty-eight toises, or nearly forty-five ordinary paces; the only difference was, that in the first set of experiments the wadding consisted of card; and in the second, of hat, both cut to fit the calibre.

Had these trials been made with no other view than to determine the degree of Recoil, produced by the different situations of the touch-hole, there would have been no use in remarking the size of the shot, the distance and dimensions of the mark, and the number of grains thrown into it at every discharge. It was however intended to try at the same time, how far the inequality

of the discharges could be depended upon, with regard to the number of grains that struck a given space. The Compiler has here annexed a table, by which it will be seen, that it is of little consequence or importance, what is the distance of the touch-hole from the breech-plug.

This table is not reduced into English measure, the French foot is three-quarters of an inch longer than the English foot, and the French inch is divided into twelve lines.

First Set.—*Wadding of Card Paper.*

	Discharge.	Recoil.	Recoil Mean.	Number of Grains thrown into the mark.	Grains Mean.	Mean of all.
Touch-hole close to the Breech Plug.	1	1 0 3	0 11 6 2-3	36	27	28
	2	0 10 3		14		
	3	1 0 3		31		
Touch-hole two lines from the Breech Plug.	1	1 3 9	1 3 0	45	34	
	2	1 2 0		33		
	3	1 3 3		26		
Touch-hole six lines distant.	1	1 0 10	1 0 6	38	25	
	2	0 11 11		20		
	3	1 0 9		18		
Touch-hole 12 lines distant.	1	1 1 7	1 1 0 2-3	27	26	
	2	1 0 3		17		
	3	1 1 4		35		

Extremes 0 10 3 and 1 3 3. Mean Recoil 1 1 0.
Extremes 14 45.

Second Set.—*Hat Wadding.*

	Discharge.	Recoil.	Recoil Mean.	Number of Grains thrown into the mark.	Grains Mean.	Mean of all.
Touch-hole close to the Breech Plug.	1	1 1 1	1 2 4 1-3	40	51	45
	2	1 4 0		78		
	3	1 2 0		37		
Touch-hole two lines distant.	1	1 0 7	1 2 0 1-3	44	41	
	2	1 2 3		40		
	3	1 3 3		41		
Touch-hole six lines distant.	1	1 3 3	1 3 1	32	45	
	2	1 2 9		50		
	3	1 3 2		53		
Touch-hole 12 lines distant.	1	1 4 5	1 3 1 2-3	60	44	
	2	1 2 7		21		
	3	1 2 5		51		

Extreme 1 0 7 and 1 4 5. Mean Recoil 1 2 8½.
Extremes 71 and 78.

The remark now left for the Compiler to make from these experiments is, that it appears with regard to the Recoil, that the distance of the touch-hole from the breech-plug is of little importance; the only circumstance therefore to be attended to, in its situation is, that it is not placed quite close to the breech-plug, for reasons before assigned, and from these experiments we are totally at a loss to account for barrels shooting so extremely bad: it must have been the Recoil that prevented the piece from shooting well.

Whatever retards the exit of the charge, operates like an increase of lead, so that if a charge of shot is put into a barrel, and rammed hard, it will act like a double charge; for by this ramming, the force of the explosion is more confined to the barrel, and of course, produces a greater Recoil. I shall now conclude on the Recoil, by recommending the only way to counteract it, and which those who have made trial of it, approve much. Take off the plate at the but of the piece, known by the name of the shoulder-plate; bore two large holes, and put in as much lead in each as is contained in a common size bullet, or three bullets beat into a plate, the same size as the shoulder-plate of the but of the piece, but as much smaller as will allow it to be confined by the iron plate, without its being perceived.

THE RANGE OF BARRELS.

IN the preceding pages, under the head of Fowling-pieces, I have given the short barrel the preference to the long one; and shall now take into consideration the range of barrels in general.

The lightness of some fowling-pieces, of a modern length, and the ease with which they are managed, is not the smallest advantage of them, which is very obvious, as they have at the same time a property so considerably valuable, that it at once decides us to give them the preference, and which has now brought them so much into use.

However, as the circumstances upon which only this preference ought to be rested, are little known, it is not sufficient that their use is general, and daily encreasing, unless it is determin-

ed what are the comparative excellencies and defects of long and short barrels; that from thence we may learn, whether sportsmen sacrifice one advantage for another.

The generally received opinion upon this subject is, that to obtain an increase on the range of the barrel, it must not only be made longer than usual, but it is necessary that the length of the barrel, and the diameter of the bore, be proportioned to each other, and the charge of powder be suited to that exact proportion; because it is assigned as a reason, that when the barrel is too short, the shot quits it before it has received the whole impulse of the powder; and, on the other hand, when the barrel is too long, that the powder is not only all inflamed, but even partly consumed, before the shot arrives at the mouth of the piece.

Nicola Spadoni, in his work on the subject of fowling-pieces, is of opinion, that gunpowder should be coarser grained for long and wide barrels, than for those of a small calibre, and this in proportion to the space it has to pass through in the one, and in the other; the reason he assigns that the grains ought to be larger for long pieces, is, that in large grains, there is more time given for the powder to be inflamed, and that where large grains are completely inflamed, they act with greater force upon the shot than small ones do; and he adds, the powder should be fine for short barrels, because the small grains inflame more suddenly than the large ones: And, in respect to shot, this gentleman

prefers shot of a large size, and gives as a reason, that the grains, by their weight, oppose a greater resistance to the powder, and by their diameter acquire a greater velocity. These arguments however, founded on truth in his own idea, ought not to prepossess us against circumstances, rested upon established principles and experiments.

From the theory of which I have just given a detail, it appears, that the superior range of long barrels was founded entirely upon the opinion, that the powder fires gradually all the time it is passing through the barrel; the conclusion necessarily drawn from this was, that the larger the charge, the longer time it was kindling, and from this it is obvious, that for an assigned charge, the barrel must be of a proportional length, so that the powder may be completely inflamed just as the ball or shot is about to quit the muzzle. The opposite to this proportion is, that in every piece there is a certain charge, which will be all fired, just at the parting of the shot from the mouth of the piece, and that any addition of powder will not take fire, but will only serve by its weight, to diminish the action of the rest, and consequently to retard the velocity of the shot. If this matter, therefore, is properly considered, it must certainly be allowed, that as the fire is not at once applied to every particle of the powder, the whole of the charge cannot be inflamed at the same instant; but it is equally certain, the progress of the inflammation is so rapid, that the powder is completely kindled, before the

shot arrives at the mouth of the shortest barrel ever made use of.

The ground upon which the superior range of long barrels were formerly preferred was, that the elastic fluid produced by the firing of gunpowder, is found by experiment to occupy, when cooled to the temperature of the atmosphere, a space of two hundred and forty-four times greater than that taken up by the powder from which it was obtained; but from the heat generated during the explosion, this elastic fluid is rarified to upwards of four times its former bulk. The expansive force of this fluid therefore is, at the moment of inflammation, one thousand times greater than that of common air, or which is the same, than the pressure of the atmosphere; or, supposing the powder to have occupied the space of one cubic inch, its expansive force, when fired, is equal to that which would be exerted by one thousand cubic inches of common air compressed into the space of one inch; as the velocity with which the flame of gunpowder expands, when compressed, is much greater than that with which the shot moves forwards, the flame must continue to press upon the shot, and add to its velocity, until it quits the mouth of the piece: This pressure becomes, however, less and less, as the shot proceeds, and ceases entirely when it leaves the muzzle, in consequence of the flame being then allowed to expand itself laterally; thus, for example: If the charge of powder takes up one inch of the barrel, and the whole length of the barrel is thir-

ty inches, then when the shot arrives at the muzzle of the piece, the enflamed powder (whose expansive effort is in proportion to the smallness of the space it occupies) extends through thirty times the space it did, when the shot began to move; and consequently presses forward with but one thirtieth part of the force it possessed at first; *for although* the velocity of the shot is continually encreased by this pressure of inflamed powder, its acceleration becomes less and less as it proceeds through the barrel; for besides that the quantity diminishes as the flame expands, the shot continuing to move faster and faster, must continually receive less and less addition of impulse, from the flame pressing behind it; so, by this rule, if two pieces of the same bore, but of different lengths, are charged with the same charges, the longer barrel will, strictly speaking, throw its shot with greater velocity and force than the shorter one. But as it is well known that the inflammation of the powder has been shewn to be nearly instantaneous, and as the increase of acceleration, which the ball or shot receives after the first impulse of the powder, when it is not very considerable, it follows, that the force with which two barrels of the same bore, and with the same charge throw their ball or shot, will be nearly the same, unless their lengths are extremely disproportionate.

Mr. Robbins, that very able mathematician and engineer, asserts, that after repeated experiments, and to which he paid every possible attention and pains to discover, and to be very ac-

curate in, says, if a musket barrel of the common bore and length, is fired with a leaden bullet, and half its weight of powder, and if the same barrel is afterwards shortened one half, and fired with the same charge, the velocity of the bullet in this shortened barrel, will be about one sixth less than what it was when the barrel was entire; and if instead of shortening the barrel, it is increased to twice its usual length, (when it will be nearly eight feet long) the velocity of the bullet will not thereby be augmented more than one-eighth part; and the greater the length of the barrel is, in proportion to the diameter of the bullet, and the smaller the quantity of powder, the more considerable will these alterations of velocity be. And from experiments made with the greatest accuracy, at different times, between barrels which have been composed of intermediate lengths, between twenty-eight and forty inches, and nearly of the same calibre; and these trials were made both by firing the piece from the shoulder, and from a firm block at an equal distance, and with equal weights of the same powder and shot: To avoid every possibility of error, the quires of paper at which they were fired, were fixed on planks, instead of against a wall; from the repetition of these frequent trials it was found, that the shot pierced an equal number of sheets, whether it was fired from a barrel 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, or 40 inches in length. But to go further, there were two barrels of the same calibre compared, one of them was in length thirty-three inches, the other sixty-

six, by repeatedly firing them in the same manner as the others were, at different distances, from forty-five to one hundred paces, the result was always the same; that is to say, that the barrel of thirty-three inches drove its shot through as much paper as the barrel of sixty-six inches did; so that from this trial, and these experiments, it is obvious what I have said in the preceding pages, that it does not signify what size barrel a sportman makes use of; for if it is short, and that it throws its shot as far as a long one, surely the short barrel will be preferred; for, from the experiments we find, that the difference of ten inches in a barrel, produces no sensible difference in the range of the piece; it is therefore evident, from every circumstance, that the short barrel is to be preferred.

SCATTERING OF BARRELS.

WITH respect to the cause of the scattering of shot in fowling-pieces, I have made every necessary experiment and collected every thing I possibly could, from those who by experience and practice have made it their study to try and rectify this defect.

From the prejudices which are so frequent and which have obtained credit among sportsmen and gunsmiths, respecting the shot of fowling-pieces, it is very natural to suppose that a variety of means have been sought after and practiced, in order to prevent this real or pretended effect of scattering the charge of shot.

M. de Marolles, mentions several methods employed for this purpose, none of which however, appear to have been ever practiced in England.

One of the methods he describes as follows; an iron or wooden mandril fitted to the calibre, is furnished at one end with small files, which are cut transversely, this instrument being introduced into the barrel, is turned round by means of a cross-handle, and forms a great number of superficial scratches in the metal, by which, it is pretended, the defect of the scattering of shot is remedied.

It will not be disputed but that this operation answers admirably to destroy the smoothness of the barrel on the inside, and will of course render it more liable to contract dirt the sooner, but it is contrary to reason to suppose that the shot should be thrown closer, by increasing the friction between it and the sides of the barrel; and that this must be the case, not a doubt remains, as a rough barrel will be always found loaded considerably with dirt after every discharge; therefore, this practice, as here related, seems truly absurd, I am sure it will be unanimously allowed, that the smoother and the higher polished the barrel of every gun is in the inside, the stronger and farther the shot will be thrown, and the recoil less felt; surely the opposition the shot meets coming out of the barrel, on being fired, when it strikes against these scratches, must not only make the recoil more sensibly felt, but must scatter the shot a great deal more, instead of making it throw closer.

Another curious remedy has been adopted, which we have been assured, from some authority, is not only a sovereign re-

medy, but also is of an ancient date; yet, allowing the antiquity, I do not think it could possibly be attended with the desired effect so as to prevent the scattering of shot.

Espinar, who has written a treatise on this subject, particularly assures us, he generally found by making the barrel wider for two or three inches towards the muzzle, (which is termed *bell-muzzled)* that this plan succeeded in making barrels throw their shot closer; I shall only say, that if this was the case, I fancy our famous gunsmiths would have long since readily adopted it, and that they have made trials of it is certain.

If we only consider for a moment, that the grains of shot, which are in actual contact with the sides of the barrel, compose upwards of half the charge, it is very certain that the surface of the calibre being enlarged at the muzzle, the number of grains will be increased that touch it, and instead of preventing the barrel from scattering will be the sure means of increasing it, which is consistent with reason, observation and trial.

M. de Marolles wishes to persuade us, that gunsmiths, in order to make their barrels throw close, make the calibre narrower at the middle, than at either breech or muzzle, while other people insist, that the calibre ought to contract gradually from the breech to the muzzle; with respect to both these assertions, they are certainly admirably calculated to burst the barrels, and not one of all these proposed remedies, are in the smallest degree

likely to succeed, or answer the purpose for which they were intended.

The plans I have already laid down, will be found to be the best as yet suggested, and the barrel will best answer the purpose, that is from thirty-two to thirty-eight inches, with a suitable bore.

The Compiler cannot avoid relating two very extraordinary fowling-pieces, made by *Mr. Cook,* gunsmith at *Bath,* one of them, a single barrel, was made for *Sir Hugh Massey, Bart.* of *Sidney-Place,* it was a stubs twisted with a patent breech, two feet eleven inches long, and a full three-quarter bore. The Compiler saw *Sir Hugh Massey* fire at a paper, twenty inches by twenty-four, and lodge one hundred and fifty grains within that space: He has been assured by *Sir Hugh,* who was as good a judge, and as good and fair a sportsman as ever this world produced, that the shots he made in the year 1802, when Grousing in *Yorkshire,* astonished all the sportsmen in that part of the country; but to prove it was not a chance barrel, *Mr. Cook* was ordered by *Sir Hugh Massey* to make one exactly of the same dimensions, and in every respect like his, which piece was tried previous to its being sent to a friend of *Sir Hugh's,* for whom it was bespoke, and it positively, in the presence of several people, at the distance of sixty yards lodged two hundred and fifty odd grains, in a paper of the same dimensions of *Sir Hugh's,* viz,

twenty inches by twenty-four. *Mr. Cook's* guns are certainly cheap, and well put out of hand; he makes his single guns at thirteen guineas each, double ones twenty guineas. He made, last season, a double fowling-piece, for the *Honourable Francis Prittie*, of the *Crescent, Bath;* and the Compiler, in the presence of the *Honourable Massey Dawson* and several others, shot a wild Duck with it, at the distance of one hundred and twenty paces, which is hardly to be credited, but the assertion can be proved by those gentlemen who were present.

There is now a fowling-piece, made by *Mr. Cook,* in the possession of *Dr. Walsh,* of the *Circus, Bath,* the length of the barrel two feet eleven inches, the bore a full three-quarter, and the *Doctor,* after repeated trials, has done me the favor to give me an exact account of its performance.

The shot that this piece was loaded with, was No. 1, and No. 2, mixed, the exact charge contained seven hundred and thirty pellets.

Number of yards distant from the mark.	Number of grains thrown into the mark.	Number of sheets of brown paper placed on one another, and through which the shots went.
60	43	14
55	116	18
50	104	34
40	240	32

N. B. The sheets of brown paper were the thickest that could be had, and cost two pence each sheet.

DOUBLE BARRELS.

As many different opinions are in existence at present, with respect to the single and double barrel fowling-pieces; some preferring one, and some the other; it will be perhaps acceptable to the sportsman, to have this difference of opinion explained, or at least shew how far one may be preferred to the other, and also to point out to many who make use of a double barrel, that there are many dangerous circumstançes in the forging or joining of a double barrel they may not be acquainted with. I shall, however, draw the comparison between both the merits and demerits of each, and then point out the safest mode for a sportsman to pursue in choosing a double, in order not to run a risk. It is very certain, that in forging two barrels intended for a double gun, that the thickness of each must be reduced in order to make

them portable, and are always much less in respect to thickness than any single barrel, and what adds more considerably to their weakness is, their being filed on the inside, when they are to be joined, until they become flat, so as to join close and properly together; but care should be taken that both barrels are of equal strength, and throughout equal in thickness; for if they should not be equal in strength, the barrel which is the thinnest will be considerably warped by the one which is stronger and thicker, and it has often occurred, that when this accident happens, one barrel is rendered totally useless. This usually happens unperceived by many sportsmen, but particularly by young ones. In answer to this, it may be said in favour of the double barrel, that it would be very easy to get two barrels made of equal substance with those which are intended for single ones, and then get them joined.* This mode is certainly the most safe and sure, but the sportsman at the end of the day, or after a good fag on steep mountains, would find very great inconvenience from the weight, and cannot but be ill repaid for his pains. It is very common to find one barrel better than the other in double barrel fowling-pieces; in short, I am satisfied that either for the use or satisfaction a double barrel fowling-piece can give any person, it is certainly overbalanced by the danger you are exposed to, and the risque you constantly run. Were I to enumerate the frequent accidents that arise to those who use them, and many

* This mode is adopted by *Mr. Joseph Manton* as being the safest.

of whom are ignorant of any kind of arms, I should, I am sure, easily impress my brother sportsmen with an idea that a single barrel is to be preferred: however I have thought it prudent to relate, at the end of this subject, one dreadful accident occasioned by a double barrel gun.

The double fowling-piece was introduced into this country, as a great many other foolish things have been, from France. In that country there is a great quantity of game, and the number of shots to be had in a day, allows the sportsman an opportunity of picking them; for from the great abundance of game a sportsman may see more in one day, in that country, than he could in this in ten. The French barrels are made very slight, and consequently take small charges, yet this is not generally supposed to be the case, but that the French barrels are thought to be superior to ours, which is evidently not so; for I know many gentlemen who have purchased French barrels, which, on being loaded with a small charge adapted to our English guns, have frequently burst.

In a small pamphlet entitled "Cautions to Young Sportsmen," the author relates a circumstance worth remarking; that he had once a double barrel gun from the best reputed maker in Paris, in which the pattern of the ornaments on each side of the sight, were distinctly seen indented, on looking through the barrels. But suppose we allow the French barrels to be ever so slight, it does not follow, that our gunsmiths cannot make our barrels safe,

and to carry a much larger charge than theirs, which I am certain they can do. The only reason for so many accidents happening from double barrels, I should conceive is, from the maker endeavouring to construct them light and portable, and to contrive, if possible, to bring the locks so close together as to prevent the inconvenience which arises from extending the thumb to the left hand lock, when wishing to cock it, by which much of the substance of both barrels must be taken, on both inside and out of each barrel, in order to prevent this inconvenience, and to make it practicable. However, this risque is now totally done away, by *Mr. Joseph Manton's* patent, for he has ingeniously contrived to fortify his barrels, although he has absolutely cut a place in them for the lock to fit in, that each lock can be with the greatest ease reached, and not the smallest hazard or accident can arise from it: in fact, all his work and fowling-pieces are so compleat, and well known, that it would be only going over old ground to detail them. In all double barrel guns, you will commonly find one barrel that will take more, or require less shot than the other. Great danger also arises in the loading of double barrels; frequently a sportsman in a hurry, throws both charges into one barrel, or, should he fire one, often in a mistake, throws the load he intended for the discharged one, into that which is loaded. With all the care possible, these accidents and mistakes frequently happen, and although there are many sportsmen who are cautious, and who often, after discharging the first

barrel, do not omit letting down the second cock, yet I will only candidly ask many of my readers, have they not themselves, or have they not known others, in having cocked both barrels on the dogs pointing, omit letting down the cock of the charged barrel after firing one? And whether they have not absolutely loaded the discharged barrel, before they have found it out, although the lock of the charged barrel has remained at full cock? Many have lost their lives from this great omission, and one of the first sportsmen, and universally allowed to be a most cautious one, was very near losing his life by an accident of this kind a few seasons ago. If, for example, two birds get up at the same time, and fly in different directions, we will suppose one east, and the other west, you will allow, that to kill both, or rather in the term of sportsmen, to *pick doublets,* your cocks must be both cocked, and it often happens, that after you have fired the first barrel, and killed the bird, the second barrel often goes off unintentionally, by your finger slipping on the second trigger; but then suppose this accident should not occur, and you turn round to shoot the other, it is a great chance if he has not got out of your reach by the time you can fire: it sometimes so happens you may be successful in killing the second, but for one you do so, you will not succeed again, perhaps in ten or a dozen times. I will go further, and give the double barrel a still fairer trial. Suppose two birds get up together, and fly from you in nearly the same direction, but so distant from each other as not

to be killed by the same barrel; to give the double fair play, and to pick doublets, no doubt but both locks should be cocked. I have seen the generality of those who shoot with double barrels, in such a hurry to have two shots, to be forced to fire the first barrel very quick, in order to have the pleasure of firing the second, and from the hurry, frequently miss both. I will appeal to every sportsman that shoots with a double gun, if in shooting alone, it does not frequently occur, that his attention is so taken up, if he wounds a bird with the first barrel, that the opportunity of a second shot is frequently lost, or if two birds fly in different directions, and he kills both, he even then loses one of them; this can be only remedied by having a marker with you, who should keep his eye on the place the *first* bird dropped in, and leave the other to the *shooter* himself. Certainly a double barrel may get more shots in a day, or sometimes in the hands of cautious persons, may answer; for there are many sportsmen who frequently, when birds rise, cock one barrel, and if they miss the bird, take the gun from their shoulder, cock, and kill the bird with the other; but this does not always occur; it frequently happens the wrong trigger is drawn, and broken from the violence of the pull, or at least much weakened; and as often, if both locks are cocked, both pulled unintentionally together. In shooting a few seasons ago, at Grous, with a particular friend, a *Mr. Cresswell, of Sudgrove, Glocestershire*, who shot exceedingly well, I have seen him frequently after missing the bird with the first barrel, fire

the second, and kill it; but he never took the gun from his shoulder, yet I observed this only happened at times, and I found he generally fired the right-hand barrel six times, for once he did the left, which proves, that in the course of time, one barrel and lock is almost worn out, when the other may be perfectly good; for I have known some sportsmen, who have never fired their second barrel for the whole day, and have candidly confessed so to me, notwithstanding their partiality to a double barrel gun.

Surely there is not a sportsman to be found, but will allow there is a material difference between the double and single in point of weight, and then, a greater consideration to many, is the price, suppose you give a double price, which is certain for a double gun, what advantage do you derive, is the question. In the early part of the season you have an opportunity to get two shots probably at each covey, but when the birds become wild, you must be content with single shots, and will probably use but the one barrel the remainder of the season. But let a sportsman with a double gun, meet one with a single, and cartridges ready made, and he will do as much execution as one with a double; you are to consider a double barrel takes twice as much time to load, as a single one, and indeed more time, if you have any regard for your life. You are also to remember, that if you are a good shot with a double gun, you will not be permitted to shoot on many properties, and very justly, as

gentlemen might as soon permit a net on their manors, as a double gun, in the hands of a *dead* shot; for a net would not be half so destructive as the gun, although a single may be backed against the net for the season. But a more curious circumstance than all, still remains, and let it not escape your memory; if you make use of a double barrel, after you fire the first barrel, do not neglect to try if the wadding of the second is down on the shot, and make it a rule always to appoint some particular time to do so, in order that it may not be totally forgotten. It will be allowed that the firing of one barrel *too often* occasions loosening the wadding of the other, and should the wadding be at any distance from the shot, it is a great chance if it does not burst; for if the wadding should remain a short space only from the shot, and the shot meet any resistance from the wadding, there remains not the smallest doubt of the consequence. How frequently does it happen in getting through a thick hedge, that we find one of the locks on the full cock, which has been done probably by a small bough, or the limb of a bush; this seldom can happen in a single barrel, if the shooter will but cover the lock with his hand, which cannot be done on both locks of the double barrel, by reason of their great distance from each other. In loading the double barrel, you will see sportsmen load one barrel first with the powder and shot, others load both first after putting in the powder, and it is common when you load with shot, to leave the ramrod in the first barrel, until you

put shot into the second, and it often occurs that in so doing, some of the grains slip over the rammer while in the other barrel, and then the only remedy left you, is to reverse the muzzle, and by shaking the piece, the ramrod will come out. In short, if my reader is determined on having a double barrel, let him not forget what I have said about the dangers which attend it, and I recommend him strongly not to mind the weight, but to choose a heavy gun, that is, two barrels that were intended for single ones, and to have them joined together, for it will be much better to carry an extra weight, than run the smallest risque.

Before I conclude this subject, I think it proper to mention a melancholy and distressing event, which happened on Monday, the 31st of October, 1803, at *Henly*, near *Crewkerne*, which could not have taken place had a single barrel been made use of.

Mr. Wheaten, a gentleman of *Devonshire*, being on a shooting party with his friends, (*Mr. Falter*, of *Combe Farm*, and *Mr. Perkins*, of *Henly*,) made several uncommon good shots, and was bantered by one of the party, that his good shooting was entirely owing to his gun, upon which he desired to change guns; and soon after firing at another bird and missing it, he observed that the lock was a bad one, and, eager to mark down the bird, he leaped upon a felled tree near him, and whilst standing in that position, in the act of charging, the gun (double barrelled) slipping through his hand towards the ground, unfortunately something came in contact with the cock of the loaded barrel, (which

was only on the half cock,) it went off, and lodged the whole contents in his breast. After which, he would not suffer himself to be moved, or the surgeon to examine his wounds, till he had made and finished his will, which he did himself, with a pencil, whilst reclining on the ground. He was then removed, and after living twenty-five hours in great anguish, displaying the fortitude and Christian resignation of a great, and brave man, he expired, sincerely lamented by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

The misfortunes that have happened, in consequence of double barrels, would be too many for the Compiler to insert, and it cannot be disputed, but accidents have also occurred with single ones; but if they were to be compared, there would be found at least one hundred accidents happen with the double barrel, to one which happen with the single.

PATENT BREECH.

THE Patent-breech is now become so prevalent, and generally used, that I question if a sportsman was seen without one to his fowling-piece, but he would be deemed ignorant, although half those that have them, do not know of what use they are, or what advantage is to be derived from them: All those authors, who have touched or treated on shooting, have never given any satisfactory description, for the reader to be convinced of the utility or advantage they are held out to possess, nor indeed have the Patentees themselves given a sufficient explanation of their principles. Some sportsmen pretend to assert, that a fowling-piece with a patent-breech, will throw its charge *ten yards farther,* than a fowling-piece without one; but, in contradiction to this, I can

assure my readers it is not the case, and which, if they will only make trial, will be found not consistent with truth. That a patent-breech dirts soon, there remains no doubt, and is difficult to clean; but the piece certainly fires quicker by means of it, which is the only advantage to be perceived, except that it certainly requires less powder than the quantity employed in the common fowling-pieces. In the patent, granted to *Mr. Joseph Manton, Davies-Street, Berkley-Square,* and *Mr. Grierson, Gun-maker to his Majesty, Bond-Street, London,* for their late improvement on the patent-breeching, the annexed plate will, in some measure, furnish the reader with their principle; to which I also beg leave to make some remarks respecting their utility, and which to every discerning sportsman, must be considered the most useful that ever as yet have appeared.

The advantages derived from *Mr. Joseph Manton's* improved breeching are, that the whole charge of powder is exploded; consequently guns on this principle shoot much stronger, and will fire oftener without cleaning than any other. The locks of a double-gun are brought nearer together, by which the cocking of the left lock is rendered more convenient; in cleaning the barrel, the rod goes down to the bottom of the breech, and in wiping it dry, forces the air through the tube in the centre, with such violence, that no damp or oil can be left behind. The common mode of joining double barrels is, to file half the substance of each barrel away in the middle, so that the partition

between the two barrels, is only half the substance of one barrel, and is soldered together with grain-tin and lead; it is therefore no wonder so many double guns burst.

Mr. Manton's improvement of double guns, is by placing two sound barrels together, without reducing them, which gives them all the solidity at the breech that is needful, and which entirely removes the danger without widening the locks; nor has there been an instance of one of those guns bursting: See plate. G the tube or centre hole; B the back screw for the convenience of counter-sinking the touch-hole; P P the part of the breech which is filed away to admit the lock nearer the centre. This patent is certainly a great improvement; for the part of the breech being filed away, must necessarily cause a quicker explosion; for until *Mr. Manton* invented this addition to the patent-breech, the tube that conveyed the powder from the touch-hole, to the bore of the tube C, was of course longer taking fire; for it had the length of a tube, that run through all that unnecessary part that *Mr. Manton* filed away. Before this improvement was made, the patent-breech did not fire, at any discharge its whole charge of powder; at least it is allowed, that nearly one-half of the charge was never fired, but went out whole: See plate 3. Suppose the whole to be the breech, and the line drawn from 1 to 2, to divide the charge of powder in the breech, the half next the touch-hole A was entirely fired, when very little of the other B was seldom or ever fired. F, the touch-hole distant

from the breech plug, G, G, G, G, the substance of the barrel, so that from the cross line under B, the powder came out in whole grains, which was found, on repeated trials against white paper, of course a great part of the charge of powder employed was totally useless; it therefore became necessary to fire the powder from the centre of the bore, which was effected by this new invention of *Mr. Manton's.*

Mr. Manton is not satisfied with the common modes used of proving the barrels he has made, but they all undergo a *water-proof*; which is done by compressing the water in the barrel, in such a manner, as to find its way through any flaws or defects that may happen to remain in it unperceived by the eye. This method of proving, places a barrel out of all doubts, with respect to any apprehension of its bursting, which must be a comfortable reflection for every sportsman that (in pursuing the rational and delightful amusement of shooting) all danger of his piece's bursting is precluded. Some gentlemen sportsmen, pretend to assert, that *Mr. Manton* has all his own barrels forged by himself, but *Mr. Manton* has assured the Compiler he has not: he purchases them at the manufactory in London.

Mr. Grierson has received another patent for an improvement on this patent. See the annexed plate.

Mr. Grierson's patent has, as well as *Mr. Manton's,* given great satisfaction to the sporting world: As *Mr. Grierson's* is fully described by the plate, I shall only mention the difference between each, and leave my readers to judge which is on the

best principle. In the comparisons I have heard made by judges, some are for *Mr. Manton's*, and others for *Mr. Grierson's*; the difference between *Mr. Manton's* tube C, and *Mr. Grierson's* tube B, is very great in point of length, and the shorter the tube, the more instantaneous the fire must be; for when there is a length of gunpowder confined, although the base is fired, and the time being almost imperceptible to its reaching the fore part of the powder, yet it will be allowed there is a time; and the barrels now in use are so short, that the charge quits the mouth of the barrel before all the powder is fired. *Mr. Grierson's* patent breech is decidedly more easily cleaned, for on taking it out, it is divided and opens like a box: See plate, and observe the edge of the line down to D, which is notched so as to represent the screw of the breech, where it enters the barrel. However, when we come to consider all the recent improvements, they demand not only our support, but admiration. Were every one of us to say, "It is all a *catch-penny*," we should not only throw cold water on real merit, but damp all efforts of future ingenuity. It is now asserted by many *antediluvian* sportsmen that, before a patent breech was known, or the names of *Manton, Knock, Grierson,* or *Twig*, that their guns used to kill game in abundance. I am free to admit that, but then in support of those eminent workmen, it may be said, they have reduced shooting now to a certainty; for where there was one man that could shoot about forty years ago, there are thirty at least now, who are most excellent shots, which is entirely owing to the great perfection that fowling-pieces have

been lately brought to; the same occurs with their pistols, scarcely a duel takes place but one, if not both of the parties are sure to meet death. Pistols, by such workmen as these, need only be placed in the hands of cool men and their destruction ensues.

The same language is held out by these old sportsmen, with respect to powder and shot; we will admit they did great execution formerly, but then they should consider that half the quantity of powder, now so universally used, and made by *Messrs. Pigou* and *Andrews*, at *Dartford*, has the desired effect, doing the execution required, and of course that the price was reduced, which circumstance, I suppose, was not in the least attended to by them.

I promised, under the title of the fowling-piece, in the preceding pages, to give some account of *Mr. Manton's* improvements; as *Mr. Manton* wrote me the following note, I thought it proper to call on him, and inspect his ingenious work, which is very complete.

"*JOSEPH MANTON respectfully acquaints* "*R. Thornhill, Esq. that the Earl of Chatham having been so liberal* "*as to order him to be supplied with the six pounders, from His Majes-* "*ty's Ordnance, to try experiments with, one of which he has Rifled, he* "*will be happy if Mr. Thornhill, or any of his friends, will do him the* "*honor of calling in Davies-Street, to examine the principle of it, and* "*his patent wadding, the utility of which is so fully acknowledged in the* "*inclosed letter, from the Duke of Richmond.*"

"*Davies-Street, Berkley-Square, December* 19. 1803."

A copy of a letter from His Grace the Duke of Richmond, when he was Master General of the Ordnance, to Major Bloomfield at Woolwich, respecting Mr. Joseph Manton's inventions of Rifling and Loading of Cannon.

GOODWOOD, *5th Sept.* 1791.

SIR,

"Mr. Manton has lately been at Goodwood, "and has agreed to accept of five hundred pounds for his inven-"tion of the cup, and the manner of rifling his guns; and as he "was desirous of a final answer, I judged that the experiments "already made, had sufficiently ascertained the utility of these "inventions, to allow him that sum on account of the Ordnance, "and to let him do as he pleases about taking out a patent to "secure its invention from other people. He is also to have the "contract for making the cups and rifling the guns, but it is to "be at such price as can be afforded to be done by other persons.

"I shall be much obliged to you to consider what guns, or "other pieces of ordnance, this invention of rifling can be with "advantage applied to, and at what price the several sorts ought "to be done by a person who should contract for it.

"I will also beg of you to send me such particular descriptions "of the rifle and of the cups to be entered in the agreement, as "may fully secure to Government for this reward, the utility of "every part of Mr. Manton's invention. With respect to what "further experiments you may judge necessary for ascertaining

"the utility of this invention, and any improvements that may be "made thereon, Mr. Manton may be required to attend to them, "and give all the information in his power relative thereto, "in consideration of the above reward; but I judge, that being "possessed of the invention, we can try what improvements may "be made in it.

"I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) "RICHMOND."

To Major Bloomfield.

Copy of a letter from His Grace the Duke of Richmond, to Mr. Joseph Manton.

GOODWOOD, 15*th Sept.* 1791.

SIR,

"Inclosed I send you an extract of a letter I "have received from Major Bloomtield of the Royal Artillery, "by which you will see that the first step to be taken, is for you "to allow Major Bloomfield the free use of the gun you have "rifled, and to shew him your apparatus for rifling of guns, and "acquaint him of your manner of using it.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient, humble Servant,

"RICHMOND, &c."

Mr. Joseph Manton, Gun Maker
Davies-Street, Berkeley-Square.

Mr. Manton finding that the Duke of Richmond wished to get every thing into the hands of the Ordnance, wrote for answer, that he could not think of giving any further information on the subject of his inventions, unless he had some security. This offended the Duke, and Mr. Manton supposes was the reason this valuable and important discovery was not adopted.

Were I to attempt a description of this invaluable invention of Mr. Manton's, I am certain it would fall very short of its real and intrinsic value; but the exposition as well as the superiority of the rifled cannon, over all those of the Board of Ordnance, will be better illustrated by the two following plates.

PLATE I.—Fig. 1. Thirty rounds from two medium six pounders, loaded with Mr. Joseph Manton's *patent* cups, with one pound of powder, distance of target 330 yards. In the presence of His Grace the Duke of Richmond at Woolwich, May 28, 1791.

Target 9 feet square.

PLATE I.—Fig. 2. Eighteen rounds from a medium six pounder, loaded in the usual way, and one pound and a half of powder, distance of target 333 yards, Feb. 2, 3, 1791.

This gun was laid in the most accurate manner, with various instruments, by the Field Officers at Woolwich.

N. B. No. 13. Grazed shot, 24 feet.
Ditto 18. Ditto, - - - 3 feet.

Target 9 feet square.

The patent wadding is made of timber; in resemblance to a very short cup, but hollowed only to admit the ball to enter half way, were it wedges itself very tight; when it is fired, the wood splits and moulds itself equally round the ball on its going out, and by that means causes a point blank direction. Another circumstance attending this invention is, that it requires less powder, nearly one half of that employed in the common cannon being sufficient to throw the same shot to a greater distance, and with more certainty, than the charge of the common guns can.

It seems rather singular, that after such experiments were made by those who pride themselves on the exactness of the shooting, and their superior knowledge of gunnery that Mr. Manton's mode was not instantly adopted by them.

But by the Duke of Richmond's letter it appears, His Grace wished to come the *old soldier* over him, but Mr. Manton certainly proved himself too old a hand and gunner for his Grace. That a man like Mr. Manton should be asked to give up his apparatus, and shew His Grace's friend, Major Bloomfield, his method of rifling of cannon, without being first recompenced was carrying the joke a little too far; for all those who have lived in the world for a few years, well know, what promises are from such quarters, and what reliance can be placed on assurances from individuals in the higher ranks of life, especially those in the military dapartment.

However, it must be regretted such an invention should remain lost to this country; I say lost, because from what I have seen, there does not remain a doubt but that rifled cannon would do greater execution than the common ones, which is fully admitted by the head of the Ordnance department, in the foregoing letters. And, I am certain, every person will lament that ingenuity and discoveries of such importance, are not only rewarded but brought into action, to render that service to the country, which it now requires, and that inevitably must result from such useful discoveries.

GUNPOWDER.

GUNPOWDER was invented in the year 1330, by a person of the name of *Swartz*, who resided at *Cologne*, and first made in England, A. D. 1418.

From the number slain in engagements, previous to its introduction, what at first view of its fatal effects might be deemed an additional and severe scourge, has rather proved beneficial to mankind, by reducing the number of species in battle, within narrower limits. In providing man with increased power over the *animal* world, and multiplying the catalogue of his food, its advantages are eminent; and, at the present day, gunpowder is so essential to the sportsman's success, that its goodness should be his chief concern in his equipment for shooting.

The excellence of this article, as to its properties, and the relative condition in which it is at the time of using it, with respect to dryness, dampness, or age, are in themselves circumstances so obviously important to the sportsman, that we have often been astonished at the almost total neglect which attends this part of the shooting science: but he may henceforward be assured, that without the utmost circumspection and care therein, his high priced fowling-piece will but little avail him; mortification and disgust will generally ensue, and the gunsmith too frequently be blamed, for the fault which the sportsman alone has created by his own neglect.

Gunpowder is composed of very light charcoal, sulphur, and well refined saltpetre. The powder used by sportsmen in shooting game, is generally composed of six parts of saltpetre, one of charcoal, and one of sulphur; but their properties, as well as the introduction of other ingredients, and the sizes of the grains are undoubtedly varied by the different manufacturers, in the composition of the powders of the same denomination, and are always kept a profound secret.

Gunpowder, when it once becomes damp, loses much of its strength, and however well dried and fabricated it may be afterwards, it never possesses the same strength it did, previous to its becoming damp.

If observations which sometimes occur, of powder being put into damp magazines, do not establish this fact, the following experiments will render it incontestible.

Let a quantity of well dried gunpowder be nicely weighed, and put into a close room, where the air is temperate and seemingly dry, and be left for three or four hours; on weighing it again, its weight will be increased. This same powder, exposed to an air loaded with vapour, acquires much additional weight in a short time. Now the increase of weight being proportional to the quantity of vapour contained in the atmosphere, and to the length of time that the powder is exposed to it, it follows that powder easily attracts moisture.

Wherefore if a degree of heat, sufficient only to fire-dry powder, be applied to powder that is damp, the moisture will oppose the action of the fire, and the grains either will not take fire at all, or their inflammation will be slower: Thus, as the fire will spread more slowly, fewer grains will burn; and the penetration of the fire, from the surface to the centre of each grain, and consequently their consumption will require more time; whence it may be concluded, that all degrees of moisture diminish the force of powder.

Saltpetre not sufficiently refined, attracts moisture very readily, and as the substances render it impure, they lessen the quantity of fluid, and prevent its detonation, it should be refined as much as possible, before it is employed in the fabrication of gunpowder.

The force of gunpowder is owing to the elastic fluid generated at the explosion, the suddenness of which depends upon the proportion of the ingredients; the contact between the nitrous and

combustible particles, and the size of the grains, &c. &c. From this we may conclude, that when several powders, equally well dried, and fired under the same state of the atmosphere, are compared together, that which produces the greatest quantity of elastic fluid, in a given space of time, is undoubtedly the strongest.

There are two general methods of examining gunpowder; one with regard to its purity of composition, the other with regard to its strength. Its purity is known, by laying two or three little heaps near each other, upon white paper, and firing one of them; for if this takes fire readily, and the smoke rises upright, without leaving any dross or feculent matter behind, and without burning the paper, or firing the other heaps, it is esteemed a sign that the sulphur and nitre were well purified, that the coal was good, and that the three ingredients were thoroughly incorporated together; but, if the other heaps also take fire at the same time, it is presumed, that either common salt was mixed with the nitre, or that the coal was not well ground, or the whole mass not well mixed together; and if either the nitre or sulphur be not well purified, the paper will be black or spotted.

For proving the strength of gunpowder, a number of machines have been invented, all of which are liable to many objections, and when trial with the same powder are found to give results so different, that no dependence can be placed on them; to so many modifications are the principle properties of powder subject, even in experiments conducted with the utmost care. These varia-

tions have been attributed, by many, to the different density of the atmosphere at the time of the different experiments; but the opinions upon this matter are so improbable in themselves, and so contradictory to each other, that they claim neither attention nor belief.

Some people insist that gunpowder produces the greatest effect, in the morning and evening, when the air is cool and dense; others assert, that its force is greatest in sunshine, and during the heat of the day. *Mr. Robins* concludes from the result of several hundred trials, made by him at all times of the day, and in every season of the year, that the density of the atmosphere has no effect in this matter, and that we ought to attribute the variations observed at those times, to some other cause than the state of the air; probably they are owing to the imperfection of the instrument, or to the manner in which the trial was conducted.

In this state of uncertainty, then, upon the theory of the effects of gunpowder, we remain to this day.

If experiments, however, are made with the prover, great care must be taken not to press the powder in the smallest degree in the tube, but to pour it gently in; and, particularly in trying the strength of different powders, which is the best use to which the instrument, imperfect as it is, can be applied; attention must be paid that one powder is not pressed closer than another, at each experiment, nor the successive experiments made, until the prover is cool, otherwise no comparative certainty can be gained.

By far the most certain method however of determining the quality of powder is, by drying some of it very well, and then trying how many sheets of paper it will drive the shots through, at the distance of ten or twelve yards.

In this trial, we should be careful to employ the same sized shot in each experiment, the quantity both of the powder and shot being regulated by exact weight; otherwise we shall not be able, even in this experiment, to arrive at any certainty in comparing the strength of the different powders, or of the same powder at different times.

Powder ought to be kept very dry, the smallest degree of moisture injures it. Good powder, however, does not readily imbibe moisture, and there is no greater proof of bad powder, than its growing damp quickly when exposed to the air. This readiness of imbibing moisture so quickly, entirely proceeds from the saltpetre, employed in the composition, not being thoroughly freed, and divested, of the common salt that it contains in its crude state, and which, in consequence, has a strong attraction for watery particles.

Powder may acquire a small degree of dampness, and be freed from it again by drying, without much injury to its quality; but if the moisture is considerable, the saltpetre is dissolved, and the intimate mixture of ingredients thereby entirely destroyed.

Drying powder with too great a heat also injures it; for there is a degree of heat which although not sufficient to fire the pow-

der, will yet dissipate the sulphur and impair the composition, by destroying the texture of the grains. The heat of the sun is certainly the best, and the greatest heat it can be exposed to with safety, but one. So many accidents constantly happen in drying powder, that the Compiler begs leave to recommend not only the safest mode, but infallibly the best; for the heat produced by this method, is the very greatest that can be felt or thought of, without danger, and is far superior to drying it in the sun, besides, it is not every day a person can have the opportunity of the sun.

There are in most houses, I dare say, a pewter plate-warmer, generally made use of in winter under plates, which are filled with boiling water, to keep the plate warm; suppose my reader, by way of experiment, gets one filled nearly with boiling water, and puts his hand on it, he will then be convinced my mode of drying powder is not only safe, but the heat thus produced is sufficient to dry the powder well, without the risk of dissolving the saltpetre, or destroying the powers of any of the ingredients.

It is to be observed by every sportsman, that damp powder produces a remarkable foulness in the barrel of a fowling-piece after firing, much beyond what arises from an equal quantity of dry powder, and this seems to arise from the diminution of the activity of the fire in the explosion, unless the sportsman is very particular indeed, in the mode of keeping his powder.

What therefore has been said, will prove the necessity there is for every sportsman to pay attention to an ingredient so necessary

in the pursuits of field sports, as gunpowder is certainly allowed to be. There is nothing that imbibes moisture quicker, than tin or copper, or acquires heat sooner; and from experience, as well as from advice, the Compiler recommends by all means to make use of leather, and strongly advises every sportsman who is in the habit of drying powder, which should be always done previous to his taking the field, not on any account to put the powder into his flask, or horn, until it has remained a sufficient time after being taken of the plate; or out of the utensil it has been dried in; in order not only to cool, but allow it to *sweat*; for depend upon it, if it is immediately put into the flask, it always has, when warm, a kind of mixture, which attaches itself to the sides of the powder flask, and incorporates itself with the powder, perhaps so as to spoil a day's sport.

Many sportsmen know good powder from bad, by trying it in their mouths; but the kind most to be preferred, is that, which after firing, leaves the pan of a more reddish colour than copper: this appearance is the best criterion possible of its strength and goodness.

There is a method of increasing the force of gunpowder, which was discovered by a physician, of the name of *Francesco*, who lived at *Fogano*, in *Tuscany*; but adding to the strength of the gunpowder, made by *Messrs. Pigou* and *Andrews*, at *Dartford*, would be useless. It is, by every sportsman, allowed to surpass

every kind of powder ever offered for sale ; its strength, the cleanliness in burning, and quickness in firing, surpasses all gunpowder as yet manufactured. Those gentlemen seem to have attained, as near as any purpose can require, that accuracy of gradulation, and of the properties, and qualities of all the ingredients, which most readily produces the destruction of all the composition, and yields the greatest possible of the permanent elastic fluid, in a given time ; which properties, can alone constitute powder of the best quality, and if a sportsman cannot manage to kill game with their powder, it is evident he had better give up shooting ; for as to making it better, by any chemical preparation, is the height of folly to attempt, and beyond the art of man. Let every sportsman bear in mind, the stronger the gunpowder, the cheaper it is ; for half the quantity of strong powder will supply the place of double the bad, and have twice the force that weak powder has.

Gunpowder has lately been brought also to great perfection in *Ireland ;* its excellencies are esteemed by the best judges : That of *Mr. Leslie's* Mills, near *Corke,* is allowed to be superior to any other manufactured in *that* kingdom.

The French were at one period, allowed to have stronger gunpowder than the English, but I fancy it is now the reverse ; therefore, I cannot dismiss this subject, without enforcing my arguments, with the attestations of the Officers of the Navy, lately bombarding *Boologne,* who say, that the strength of the English

gunpowder, so far excelled that of the French, as to carry the shot with full effect, when the powder of the enemy proved insufficient to do His Majesty's ships the least injury.

SHOT.

THE choice of this article, is highly worth the care, and particular attention of every sportsman.

It should be even, round, and void of cavities. The patent milled shot is at this time to be preferred to all other sorts, and is of late become cheaper, the patent having expired: It is very generally used; but, notwithstanding all its merits, the Compiler could never prevail on two old friends of his, who were the best shots and sportsmen he ever knew, to make use of it; they always shot with the common shot, and killed more game than many good shots did, by using patent; they were always remarked to say, (if they were recommended the patent shot,) how many years had they followed sporting with common shot, with the greatest success, before even the patent was heard of.

It must be observed by my readers, that the numbers I shall recommend in the following lines, in point of size, are taken from the table at the end of this subject, which is hat mode of numbering shot, that I strongly advise to be pursued by every person.

It is extremely important to the success of the chace, that, the sportsman should proportion the size of his shot, as well to the particular species of game he means to pursue, as also to the season of killing it. Thus, in the beginning of the Grousing season, number 2, should be made use of; for if the shot is mixed, (which is preferred and recommended by the Compiler, who, for many years has shot with nothing else) it will be found, by experience, to be the best. The numbers 2 and 3, will answer for both Grous and Partridge; and for Pheasants or Black Game, numbers 3 and 4. The sportsman who follows this advice, will find great benefit, and kill double the quantity of game he used to do before. In the early part of the season, the birds spring near at hand, and the sportsman seldom fires at a greater distance than forty paces. If the shooter takes his aim but tolerably well, it is almost impossible for a bird at this distance, to escape the *disk* or circle described by the shot.

Hares also, at this season of the year, sit closer; and being at this time thinly covered, may easily be killed with this size shot, at thirty or forty paces.

The shot most proper for Snipe and Quail, is cross or mustard seed, but if the day on which you shoot should be very windy, you may use number 1, as the wind will not bend the course of that size shot so much as it would the cross, for in using shot of a larger size, however the sportsman may shoot, yet he will frequently miss; the objects being so small that they have great chance of escaping in the vacant spaces of the circle, that are made by the shot.

About the beginning of *October*, at which time the Partridges are stronger on the wing, and all birds have their *feathers*, and Hares their *fur* thicker in *winter* than in *autumn*, consequently require either larger shot, or a shorter distance to be penetrated by it. The sportsman will do well to make use of number 3, if mixed shot is preferred, numbers 3 and 4; number 3 preserves a proper medium between shot that is too large, and that which is too small, and will kill a hare from the distance of fifty to fifty-five paces, and a partridge at sixty, if the *Dartford powder* is made use of; in short, this size shot will answer for every season.

It is very certain, that distant objects are frequently missed for the want of larger shot; but then these bear no proportion to the number which are daily missed by using shot of too large a size, especially with the feathered game.

If a man were to shoot constantly with number 4 or 5, for one bird, which he might chance to kill, with a single pellet, at the distance of seventy, or eighty paces, he would miss twenty

shots out of fifty; which would in such case escape in the vacant spaces of the circle, described by the shot; but if the sportsman expressly proposes to shoot wild ducks, or hares, then he had better make use of numbers 4 or 5, for hares, and 5, 6, or 7, for all water fowl.

If he shoots with a double barrel, he can load one of the barrels with large shot, for necessary occasions, and in case large shot is required, number 4, will be found to be better than any other, for its size is not so large as to prevent it from sufficiently garnishing, as being equally spread in the circle, and it can at the same time perform in effect all that a larger sized shot can do, which garnishes very little, if any at all.

It is universally allowed, that game killed with patent shot, will turn, or become putrid, twenty-four hours sooner than game killed with the common shot.

The cause is thought to proceed from the copperas, used in preparing the lead, which is made use of in greater quantities for the patent shot, than for the common.

In order therefore to shew clearly at one view, the comparative difference in the garnishing of shot, of different sizes, as well as mixed, the Compiler here subjoins a table, which indicates the precise number of pellets, composing an ounce weight of each short of shot. And he pledges himself, the greatest accuracy has been observed, and every grain counted over three different times, and weighed as often.

This Table is not numbered in the old method.

Patent Shot.	Grains.	Common Shot.	Grains.
One ounce of No. 1, - - - -	86	One ounce of No. 1, - - - -	98
Ditto, No. 2, - - - - - - -	110	Ditto, No. 2, - - - - - - -	112
Ditto, — 3, - - - - - - -	162	Ditto, — 3, - - - - - - - -	141
Ditto, — 4, - - - - - - -	203	Ditto, — 4, - - - - - - - -	167
Ditto, — 5, - - - - - - -	270	Ditto, — 5, - - - - - - - -	231
Ditto, — 6, - - - - - - -	330	Ditto, — 6, - - - - - - - -	298
Ditto, — 7, - - - - - - -	390	Ditto, — 7, - - - - - - - -	360
Ditto, — 8, - - - - - - -	482		

Patent mixed Shot.	Grains.	Common.	Grains.
One ounce of No. 4, 5, 6. - -	263	One ounce of No. 4. 5, 6, - -	232
Ditto, - - - 5, 6, 7, - -	330	Ditto, - - - 5, 6, 7, - -	297

Before I conclude on such an important article, it will be necessary to observe to every sportsman, that lately the numbers of the shot have been changed, and for what reason the Compiler is totally unable to account, so that the way they number the shot now, the foregoing table will not be found correct, except they adhere to the old method and stile, of numbering the shot: The largest shot they can produce at an eminent iron-mongers in Bath, is number 4, and the smallest they have next to cross shot, is number 1; they vary the numbers in *Bath*, and *Bristol*, but the Compiler believes *London*, is the place where they still pursue the old way in numbering shot, and of course that which the sports-

man must resort to, should be numbered as follows, according to the old and true method.

The smallest is called dust,
Next, mustard seed,
Then, cross,
Number 1, the smallest size numbered,
Number 2.
Number 3.
Number 4.
Number 5.
Number 6.
Number 7.
Number, 8, the largest size numbered,
and swan drops.

GAME LAWS.

BY the law of Nature, every man, from the prince to the peasant, has an equal right of pursuing, and taking for his own use, all such creatures as are *feræ naturæ*, and are therefore the property of no one in particular, and what is no man's property, any body may take, and is liable to be seized by the first occupant.

But it follows from the very end and constitution of society, that this natural right, as well as many others belonging to man as an individual, may be restrained by positive laws, enacted for reasons of state, or for the supposed benefit of the community. This restriction may be either with respect to the place in which this right may, or may not, be exercised; with respect to the animals that are the subject of this right; or with respect to the

persons allowed or forbidden to exercise it. And in consequence of this authority, we find that laws here have been enacted, and a power of restraint exerted, to forbid the entering on any man's grounds for any cause, or on any account, without the owner's leave; having extended their protection to such particular animals as are usually the objects of pursuit, and have vested the prerogative of sporting and taking such animals in the sovereign of the state only, and such as he shall authorise. Many good reasons have concurred for making these laws and restrictions; first, for the encouragement of agriculture, and improvements of lands, by giving every man an exclusive dominion over his own soil.

Secondly, for the preservation of the several species of these animals, which would soon be extirpated by a general liberty.

Thirdly, for the prevention of idleness and dissipation, in husbandmen, labourers, artificers, and others of lower rank; which would be the unavoidable consequence of universal licence.

Fourthly, for the prvention of popular insurrection and resistance to the government, by disarming the bulk of the people; which last is a reason oftener meant, than avowed, by the makers of forest, or game laws.

Nor, certainly, in these prohibitions is there any natural injustice, as some have been weak enough to suppose: since, as *Puffendorf* observes, the law does not hereby take from any man his present property, or what was already his own; but barely abridges him of one means of acquiring a future property, that

of occupancy; which indeed the law of nature would allow him, but of which the laws of society, have in most instances very justly and reasonably deprived him.

Yet however defensible these provisions in general may be, on the footing of reason, justice, or civil policy, we must, notwithstanding acknowledge, that in their present shape, they owe their immediate origin to slavery; it is not till after the irruption of the northern nations, into the Roman empire, that we read of any other prohibitions, than that natural one of not sporting on any private grounds, without the owners leave.

With regard to the rise and origin of our present civil prohibitions, it will be found, that all forest or game laws, were introduced into Europe at the same time, and by the same policy, as gave birth to the feudal system; when these swarms of barbarians issued from their northern hive, and laid the foundation of most of the present kingdoms of Europe, on the ruins of the western empire. For when a conquering general came to settle the œconomy of a vanquished country, and to parcel it out amongst his soldiers or feudatories, who were to render him military services, for such donations, it behoved him, in order to secure his new acquisitions, to keep the *rustici,* or lower orders of the country, and all who were not his military tenants, in as much ignorance as possible respecting the use of arms. Nothing therefore could tend so effectually to carry this into execution, as a prohibition of hunting and sporting; and therefore it became policy in the conqueror to reserve this right to himself, and also a power to give a right to those

whom he pleased, to enjoy those field sports, which he took care should be only they who were his capital feudatories, or greater barons. And, accordingly we find, in the feudal constitutions, one and the same law prohibiting *rustici* in general, from carrying arms, and also proscribing the use of nets, snares, or other engines for destroying the game.

This exclusive, privilege, well suited the martial genius of the conquering troops, who delighted in a sport which in its pursuit and slaughter, bore some resemblance to war. And as *Cæsar* says, speaking of the ancient Germans *(Vita omnis in venationibus atque in studiis rei militaris consistit)* and *Tacitus* in like manner observes, that, *quoties bella non inuent*; *multum venatibus, plus per otium transigunt*. And indeed, like some of their modern successors, they had no other amusement to entertain their vacant hours; they despised all arts as effeminate, having no other learning than what was couched in such rude ditties as were sung at the common carousals, which succeeded these ancient huntings. And it is remarkable, that in those nations, where the feudal policy remains the most uncorrupted, the forest, or game laws, continue in their highest rigour.

In France, all game was properly the king's; and in some parts of Germany it is death for a peasant to be found hunting in the woods of the nobility.

With us, however, in this kingdom, thank God, there exists no law to effect a person's life for killing game, except he be disguised, which brings him under the black act.

In England, hunting has been esteemed a most princely diversion, and exercise. The whole kingdom was replenished with all sorts of game, in the times of the Britons, who lived in a wild and pastoral manner, without inclosing or improving their grounds; and derived much of their subsistence from the chace, which they all enjoyed in common. But when husbandry took place under the Saxon government, and lands began to be cultivated, improved, and enclosed, the game naturally fled into the woody and desert tracts, called *forests*, and having never been disposed of in the first distribution of lands, were therefore held to belong to the crown. These were filled with great plenty of game, which our royal sportsmen reserved for their own diversion, on pain of a pecuniary forfeiture, on such as interfered with their sovereign. But every freeholder had the full liberty of sporting upon his own territories, provided he abstained from the king's forests.

On the Norman conquest, a new doctrine took place; and the right of pursuing and taking game, was then held to belong to the king, or to such only as were appointed and authorized by him.

And this, as well as upon the principles of the feudal law, that the king is the ultimate proprietor of the lands in the kingdom, they being held of him as the chief lord, or lord paramount of the fee; and that therefore he has the right of the universal soil, to enter thereon, and to hunt and take such game, at his pleasure; as also upon another maxim of the common law, that these ani-

mals are *bona vacantia,* and having no other owner, belong to the king by his prerogative.

As therefore the former reason, was held to vest in the king a right to pursue and take them any where, the latter was supposed to give the king, and such as he should authorize, a *sole* and *exclusive* right.

This right, thus newly vested in the crown, was exerted with the utmost rigour, at, and after the time of the Norman establishment; not only in the ancient forests, but in the new ones which the conqueror made, by laying together vast tracts of country, depopulated for that purpose, and reserved solely for the king's royal diversion, in which were exercised the most horrid tyrannies and oppressions, under the colour of forest laws; and for the sake of preserving the beasts of chase, or game, to kill any of which within the limits of the forest, was as penal as the death of a man.

And in pursuance of the same principle, *King John* laid a total interdict upon the winged game, as well as the four-footed: "*Capturam avium per totum, Angliam interdixit.*"

The cruel and insupportable hardships, which these forest laws drew upon the subject, occasioned our ancestors to be as zealous for their reformation, as for the relaxation of the feudal rigours and the other exactions introduced by the Norman family; and accordingly we find the immunities of *Carta de foresta,* as warmly contended for, and extorted from the king, with as much difficulty, as those of *Magna Charta* itself.

By this charter, confirmed in parliament, many forests were stripped of their oppressive privileges, and regulations were made in the regimen of such as remained; particularly killing the king's deer was made no longer a capital offence, but punished only by fine, imprisonment or transportation. And by a variety of subsequent Statutes, together with a long acquiescence of the crown, without exerting the forest laws, this prerogative is now become no longer a grievance to the subject.

But, as the king reserved to himself the *forests* for his own exclusive diversion, so he granted out from time to time other tracts of lands to his subjects, under the names of *chases, or parks*; or gave them licence to make such in their own grounds; which must be allowed are smaller forests in the hands of a subject, but not governed by forest laws; and by the common law, no person is at liberty to take or kill any beast of chace, but such as hath an ancient chace or park; unless they are also beasts of prey.

As to all inferior species of game, termed *beasts and fowls of warren*, the liberty of taking or killing them is another franchise, or royalty, derived likewise from the crown, and called *free warren*. A word which signifies preservation, or custody, as the exclusive liberty of taking and killing fish, in a public stream or river, is called *a free fishery*; of which, however, no new franchise can at present be granted, by the express provision of *Magna Charta*, c. 16. The principal intention of granting a man these franchises or liberties, was in order to protect the game, by giv-

ing him a sole and exclusive power of killing it himself, provided he prevented other persons from doing so. And no man but he who has a chace or free warren, by grant from the crown or prescription, which supposes one, can justify hunting or sporting on another man's soil; or indeed, in thorough strictness of common law, either hunting or sporting at all.

We may therefore conclude from this, that the king by his prerogative, and such persons as have, under his authority, the royal *franchise* of *chace*, *park*, or *free warren*, are the *only* persons who may acquire any property, however fugitive and transitory, in these animals, *feræ naturæ*, while living; which is said to be vested in them, *propter privilegium*. And it must be also observed, that such persons as may thus lawfully hunt, fish, or fowl, *ratione privilegii*, have only a qualified property in these animals; it not being absolute or permanent, but lasting only so long as the game remain within the limits of such respective franchise, liberty, or manor, and ceasing the instant they voluntarily pass out of it; which, grounded on reason, and natural justice; for property consists in the possession, which possession commences, by finding it in his own liberty, and is continued, by the immediate pursuit.

I shall not attempt to comment on the severity of the game laws in any instance, for two sound reasons, first, it will only give cause to inflame the minds of those who so often reprobate them; and secondly, all I could advance, would not tend to a

reformation of them, and only advise those persons who exclaim so much against them, to reflect sufficiently on the subject. I certainly admit, and it is not to be disputed, that the game laws are complicated, obscure, and intricate, and call loudly for revisal. I shall now proceed to take notice of the Game Acts, necessary for every shooter to have a knowledge of; for as *Judge Blackstone* judiciously observes, in his introduction to his Commentaries, "It is incumbent on every man to be acquainted "with those laws, at least, with those in which he is immediately "concerned."

To prevent repetitions throughout these following lines, in stating the Acts of Parliament, it is necessary to premise, that I shall not intrude on my reader's time, by giving any acts that are superfluous or old, but confine myself to such as are recent, necessary, and concerned with the safety of those who are fond of shooting, with a few hints and remarks.

It is enacted by the 8 G. c. 19, that where any person, for an offence against any law in being, at the making of the said act, for the better preservation of game, shall be liable to any pecuniary penalty or sum of money, on conviction before a Justice of the Peace, the prosecutor may either proceed to recover the same in such manner, or he may sue for the same (before the end of the second term after the offence committed, 26 G. II. c. 2.) by action of debt, or on the case, bill, plaint, or information, in any Court of Record in *Westminster*; wherein, if he

recovers, he shall have double costs: Provided that the offender shall not be prosecuted both ways; and in case of a second prosecution, he may plead his defence, the former prosecution pending on the conviction or judgment thereupon had. And the 2 G. III. c. 19. recites, That whereas a moiety of the said penalty, by several acts, is directed to be applied to the use of the poor of the parish where the offence was committed. It is therefore enacted, that it shall be lawful for any person to sue for the whole of such penalty to his use, and if he recovers, he shall have double costs; such action to be brought within six months after the offence is committed. *

* In the above recital it is to be observed, that formerly the Act ordered half the penalty to the use of the poor of the parish wherein the offence was committed; for which reason, the poor of the said parish were not, at one period, permitted to give evidence; but by the act, 27 G. III. they are qualified to be witnesses against offenders, though the penalties are ordered to be applied to the use of the poor.

QUALIFICATION.

BY the 22 and 23 Car. II. c. 25. Every person, not having lands and tenements, or some other estate of inheritance, in his own or his wife's right, of the clear yearly sum of £100 *per annum*, or for term of life, or not having lease or leases of 99 years, or for any longer term, of the clear yearly value of £150 (other than the son or heir apparent of an esquire, or other person of higher degree, and the owners and keepers of forests, parks, chaces or warrens, being stocked with deer, or conies, for their necessary use, in respect if the said forests, parks, chaces, or warrens) is hereby declared to be a person, by the laws of this realm, not allowed to have or keep for himself, or any other person, any guns, bows, greyhounds, setting dogs, ferrets, nets,

gins, snares, or any other engines for the taking or killing of game.* S. 3.

An unqualified person may go out with a qualified person, and beat the bushes and follow him, but he must not have any weapon, or engine in his hands, or about him, for the destruction of game.

As there have been many law suits and differences, respecting who is qualified, or who is not, with regard to emoluments held under the crown, or derived from the different salaries held from universities and professions, it will be necessary first to state, what has been said respecting the various qualifications, and leave the reader to judge of the matter, and decide whether he is qualified, or considers himself so. By the qualification of the Act 22 and 23, C. II. c. 25, after reciting all those qualified, we find amongst them these words: "Other than the son and heir apparent of

* In an *action qui tam* on the Game Laws, it is sufficient to say, that a person is *not qualified* generally without shewing that he had not one hundred pounds a year, or any other estate that makes a qualification, 2 *Com. Rep.* 522. But in *convictions*, it is necessary that all the qualifications should be negatively set out in the information, and it must be averred, that the defendant had not the particular qualifications mentioned in the statute 22 and 23 C. II. c. 25. because it must be made out before the Justice, that he had no such qualification as the law requires, and therefore the Justice ought to return that he had no manner of qualification, before he can convict the defendant. *Vide* 1. *Burn* 148. 2. *Lord Raym.* 1415. *Dougl.* 345.

The qualification of one hundred pounds a year, must be clear of all mortgages, or any other incumbrances, even to income tax, or other impositions. *Vide Wothrell v. Hall. Burn's Justice, p.* 328.

an esquire, or other persons of higher degree;" *Burn's Justice.* Now according to the order of precedencc, we find it as follows: "The heralds next below knights and their sons, and above esquires, rank (1); colonels (2); serjeants at law, and doctors in the three learned professions (3)." *Blackstone* i. p. 405.

M. 26. G. III. *Jones*, v. *Smart*. This was an action to recover a penalty for killing game, by 5 and 9, Anne, *not being duly qualified.* The question was, whether a diploma from *St. Andrew's*, in *Scotland*, appointing the defendant *Doctor of Physic*, gave him a qualification, under 22 and 23, G. II. c. 25. to kill game. *Conste*, for the plaintiff argued, that supposing him to have the same rank as a Doctor of the *English* Universities, yet he is not such a character as was meant to be qualified, by the Stat. of C. II. The qualification claimed, must be derived from construing the words, *or other person of higher degree*, in the nominative case; and supposing that every person of higher degree than an esquire, is thereby qualified. That this is not the true construction of the Statute is clear, by the case of *K.* v. *Utley*, 24 G. III. And, supposing the doctors of the two *English* Universities, have the right contended for by the present defendent, (which is a very doubtful matter), yet this diploma does not confer such a right. There is no instance in which foreign diplomas and degrees, have been acknowledged here; and there is a great difference between degrees acquired by long labour and residence, and one bestowed in a summary manner, 8 *Rep.* 114. *Dr. Bonham's* case.

And by the Union, it does not follow, that persons having taken *Scotch* degrees, are to be endowed with all the privileges of *English* degrees. *Dr. Gilbert* having taken his degree of D. D. in *Scotland,* wished to preach at *Oxford* in his proper habit as a doctor, but was not allowed: And *Dr. Pitcairn,* accepted a degree at our Universities, although he had before taken the same degree in *Scotland.*

Erskine in reply, made three questions: First, whether on the construction of 22 and 23 C. II. every person as a member of the civil state, who is an esquire, or superior in rank, may not kill game? Secondly, whether a doctor of physic who has taken his degree in *England,* be not such person? Thirdly, whether a Scotch diploma does not confer the same privileges. As to the first, the language of the statute is very strong; the word "*other*" must be considered as the *nominative,* and not as the *genitive* case, both in reason and grammatical construction: It is clear, the statute did not mean to confine the qualification altogether, to *landed* property, by extending it to the son and heir apparent of an esquire, who is supposed to have no landed property of his own.

The *Esquires,* who are also enumerated by *Camden,* are persons who have no land: From 8 *Rep.* 118. we may recollect, that where a Statute will bear two interpretations, one contrary to sense, the other agreeable to it, the latter shall prevail: Here it was evidently the intention of the legislature, that persons of higher degree than an Esquire, should be qualified; for if the

opposite construction was to prevail, a person would have a derivative title, when the person from whence such title derived, would have none, and this very defendant's son, will derive a right from his father's diploma, which it is contended the father himself has not.

Secondly, as to the question whether an *English* doctor be of superior degree to an esquire, *Blackstone* ranks doctors above esquires, and so do the *Heralds*, but this relates only to *English* degrees. Then thirdly, does a *Scotch* diploma confer the same right? A *Scotch* doctor is of equal rank as an *English* one, as a member of the civil state; and the fourth article of the Act of Union says, *there shall be a communication of all rights, &c. except when expressly agreed to the contrary.* As to the College of Physicians, and the Universities, refusing to allow *Scotch* doctors their own privileges, within their own jurisdictions, they, as private Corporations, may make what regulations they please, concerning their own bodies; but as to all general immunities, derived from the common law, or under the Act of Union, they cannot deprive any body of these. The Court took time to consider, but *Lord Mansfield* then said, that as to the latter ground, he had no doubt that all privileges granted by the Statutes to the Universities, were confined to our own, and did not extend to *Scotland*, or other foreign Universities, which were governed by their own particular laws and customs. But that the general question upon the construction of the Statute of C. II. should not

pass undecided. Afterwards, the court delivered their opinions, *seriatim*—*Lord Mansfield.* This, in an action brought by the plaintiff against the defendant, for using a gun for the purpose of killing game, not being duly qualified. The case states, that the defendant rested his justification upon a diploma from *St. Andrew's, in Scotland,* conferring on him the degree of doctor of physic. Two objections have been raised; first, that under the diploma, the defendant had the same rights and privileges conferred on him, as are acquired by a degree bestowed by the *English* Universities; secondly, that doctors in the learned professions, are of a higher degree than an Esquire, and therefore, by 22 and 23 C. II. are exempted from the penalties of the game laws. The Statute of 22 and 23 C. II. has these words, "*other than the son, and heir apparent of an Esquire, or other person of higher degree.*" For the defendant it has been contended, that other person of higher degree, relates to the Esquire himself, and means that a person of higher degree than an Esquire, is qualified: Whereas, on the other side, it is contended, that it means "*other than the son, and heir apparent of an Esquire, or the son of any other person of a higher degree.*" To be sure, absurd consequences may seem to follow, from giving a privilege to the son, which the father has not; but the question is, has the Statute done it, or not? I wish to have the general point determined, because of the consequences. This Court considered the point before, in *K.* v. *Utley,* and there they held, that the Statute meant *the sons of other persons of higher degree.*

On full consideration, I am not ripe to vary from the opinion given in that judgement, all the precedents are so, *Burn's* precedents give the same constructions; but what struck me most was this, the drawer of the Statute of G. II. certainly had the former Statute of *Jac.* I. in his view, for, though it does not follow the other Statute throughout, yet it does in that clause, and that does not admit of a doubt, for there the word "*of*" is expressly inserted: I cannot therefore unnecessarily vary from the decision that has been given; I say unnecessarily, because I am satisfied on the other ground of the opinion I delivered the other day; on that ground there is not a colour for saying, that the defendant is qualified by the Act of Union; it is true, by the fourth article of that Act, the *Scotch* have the same general privileges as the *English*, but then they must have the same qualifications, otherwise they come not within the same descriptions; for the general one which declares, there shall be a communication of all privileges, can only mean such as are of a general nature: A *Burgess of London*, is endued with certain privileges, to which a burgess of *Edinburgh* has no claim; so in every case, when a privilege is of a qualified nature, it must be understood with that qualification; a doctor of the *English* Universities, may become a member of the College of Physicians, may plead in *Doctors Commons*, and have various other privileges, from which a *Scotch* doctor, as such, is excluded; the qualification must be therefore from *Oxford*, or *Cambridge*. In like manner, the Statute allowing men of certain degrees, to have

certain dispensations for holding two livings, necessarily refer to such degrees only, as are obtained in an *English* University for the Church of *Scotland*, is distinct from ours, and admits not of the same rules; therefore, whatever rank the defendant may hold by courtesy, he is not in point of law, to be considered as a doctor to this purpose. Judgement for the plaintiff. *Durnf. & East*, 1 *v*. 44.

By this, it is very clear, that *Lord Mansfield* decreed in favour of the plaintiff, although it seems hard, that the son of the defendant should be qualified, and his father not.

With respect to qualification, there are more inconveniences perhaps in proving one, than the sportsman can be possibly aware of, which I trust I shall be able to prove, in the following lines, not only from experience, but from facts that have appeared, from trials on this very subject: To those *unfortunate* sportsmen who have happened to come in contact with *Lord B*——, will probably admit this to be a fact; and to those that entertain a doubt about the question, I would by all means advise them to satisfy themselves in the season, by a *pleasant* excursion to *Berkley Castle*, where the sportsman may rest assured, he will have plenty of game, and probably a *pleasant* excursion to the following *Glocester assizes*.

As many different opinions at present exist, respecting whether the plaintiff is obligated to prove the defendant is not qualified; or whether the defendant is forced to prove himself qualified. The only colour that remains on this question to be supported in

favour of the defendant, is, that when he is summoned before a Justice of the Peace, it becomes necessary for the plaintiff to prove the defendant not qualified, before the Justice can convict the defendant. See *East. Tm. Rep. p.* 639. The *King* v. *Stone.* However, on looking over this case, it will be found as yet undecided, although ably argued; *Lord Kenyon* and *Justice Grose* gave as an opinion, that it was indispensibly necessary for the plaintiff to prove the defendant had not the qualification the law in this case required; and in opposition, *Lawrence* and *Le Blanc* contended it was necessary for the defendant to shew he was qualified, without any compulsion on the part of the plaintiff; *Lord Kenyon* closed his argument as follows: "If *Lord Mansfield, Mr. Justice Dennison,* and *Mr. Justice Foster* thought that all this was necessary forty years ago, surely the length of time which has since elapsed, without their decision having been called in question, has not weakened, but rather confirmed, the authority of it." The court being equally divided, made no order, but it is a general received opinion, and always now pursued, that in action of *qui tam,* the defendant must shew he is qualified: Indeed I conceive it right, and agree with all who I have consulted on this head, that it would be impossible for the plaintiff to prove a negative.

Many gentlemen who have a qualification, think it a very easy circumstance to prove, but let them even succeed in proving it, it is inconceivable the expence that attends it, for although the

plaintiff is liable to pay the costs, if he should be non-suited, yet a certain expence is always sure to fall on the defendant, even if he succeeds. The following case of *Eading* and *Smith* v. *Wyke*, will serve to prove it to be so.

It was under the influence of a certain *Lord* that these two actions were brought against *George Wyke, Esq.* the first for shooting, not being qualified by the laws of the realms so to do; and the other, for shooting without a certificate; which was tried at the *Glocester* assizes, on the 9th of March, 1804, before *Justice Lawrence.*

George Wyke proved his qualification in ten minutes, to the satisfaction of both Judge and Jury, and it is pretty sure that this certain *Lord* knew that *George Wyke* was a man of a considerable property; but such is his Lordship's passion for giving trouble, that he would spend a thousand pounds sooner than lie idle. The severity of this case is the great trouble that *George Wyke* was put to, as his lawyers well knew that the court always required the strongest and best evidence that could be produced, it became necessary and incumbent on them to procure it. His agent from Carmarthen was brought into court, a proctor from the prerogative court, with the will under which he derived his estate, and also the two witnesses to the will were subpœned, (and in case the witnesses happened not to have been living, he would have been forced to produce some person to have sworn to their handwriting) all the title deeds, and witnesses to them were also

brought there, in fact, such trouble and difficulty besides the expence, (notwithstanding *his Lordship* being forced to pay the cost) is inconceivable; however, *George Wyke* nonsuited his Lordship, to the satisfaction of the judge, jury, court, and the joy of the whole country, excepting two notorious game-keepers, who sculked out of court hooted at by all.

The trial for the want of the certificate next came on, which certificate was produced to the astonishment of his Lordship's party: However an unlucky circumstance occurred, that never before came to be decided by a jury, and which his Lordship's Counsel directly took up; which was the insertion of the name of *John* instead of *George* in the certificate, through mistake. This cause, although trivial, was most sensibly felt by *Mr. Wyke*, a man of the strictest principle and honor; and when any sportsman comes to place himself in *Mr. Wyke's* situation, I dare say he will conceive the mistake a great misfortune, and hardship, as every one must, particularly that pays his money. This imposition, or tax on the part of government, is only intended to increase the revenue, and if we consider this to be the case, we conceive that having paid the money for our certificate, it would be sufficient to screen us from any circumstance or trouble that might be created after.

Mr. Wyke lived at *Lavington*, in the county of *Wilts*, near a friend of his, a *Mr. Tinker*; *Mr. Wyke* not being able to go to *Salisbury*, and hearing his friend was going there, requested him to procure his certificate, and sent him the money for that pur-

pose; some accident occurred that prevented *Mr. Tinker* from going to *Salisbury*, and as the 1st of September was on the following day, thought it necessary to send for his, and *Mr. Wyke's* certificate, and wrote a letter to a innkeeper there, to that effect giving in the name of *George Wyke*. *Bonnyface*, having a press of business at the time the messenger arrived, informed him he might return, and every thing necessary should be done, and trusting to his strong head and memory, burnt the letter, and next day returned *John Wyke's* name to the Clerk of the Peace, who issued the certificate in the name of *John*. This was clearly proved in court, and that *Mr. Wyke*, perceiving the mistake, wished to have it rectified; it was also proved that there was no such person as *John Wyke*. The Judge (*Lawrence*) gave a verdict for the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the Court of Exchequer; he said it was a case two nice for him to decide. On the part of the plaintiff he contended, he was led into an error by seeing the name of *John*, instead of *George*; for had the plaintiff gone through any process in the name of *John*, he would have been nonsuited, for not having the proper name, for he stated that the act specifies, that "Every person who takes out a certificate, shall give in his name, and place of abode, in *his hand writing*," in this case the act was not fulfilled, for *Mr. Wyke* sent by *Mr. Tinker*, and *Mr. Tinker* to the innkeeper. If the mistake originated with the Clerk of the Peace, then it would have been the fault of the person employed by Government, and the law

officer would have been liable to an action from *Mr. Wyke*; the mistake lies certainly with the innkeeper, and the case is very hard on the part of *Mr. Wyke.*

It has been since very ably argued. The counsel for *George Wyke* were *Mitford* and *Mills,* for the plaintiff, *Serjeant Williams,* and after a long and able argument on both sides, as far as any idea could be formed of the opinions the Judges delivered, it was conceived all but the Chief Justice were in favour of *Wyke*; however they did not give their final decision, nor will not until the next term, and should it come time enough to be inserted in this publication, it shall be placed at the end of it.

As a great law suit happened at *Leicester* assizes, a few years back, respecting the lease of lives and years, I think it necessary to state it to my readers, in case any thing similar should occur to them, that in such case they might know how to act.

Earl Ferrers. v. *Henton.* E. 40. G. III. This was an action for penalty of the Statute of 5 Ann, c. 14, for killing game, not being qualified. The quetsion turned on the defendant's qualification; and to which it appeared, that he was possessed of certain premises in his own right, of a clear yearly value of £150 per annum, under a lease granted to certain other persons, named for 99 years, if he, the defendant and two others should live so long. The Judge being of opinion, that this was a sufficient qualification for the defendant to kill game, nonsuited the plaintiff.

Sergeant Vaughan, now moved to set aside the nonsuit, on the ground that the defendant's estate in the premises, was not such as the Statute required for that purpose; being within a lease for life, because the lives might survive the term, nor a lease for 99 years certain, because the lives might drop before.

The *Lord Chief Justice,* the late *Lord Kenyon,* gave his opinion as follows. Leases of this kind have already been deemed sufficient to give a qualification. There is no reasonable probability of any life in being, extending beyond 99 years; and the legislature in admitting leases for 99 years of a certain value, to be a qualification to kill game, did not mean to require, that they should positively ensure so long; it is sufficient if they may extend to that period, subject as in this case, to the contingency of the parties so long living. By the court, rule refused. *Durnf. and East.* 506.

It is also to be observed by the 22 and 23. C. II c. 25. that no unqualified person has any right to keep for himself, any kind of sporting dog, or for any other person, as those people called poachers, frequently keep dogs to rear, or keep (at the period when the shooting season is over, and often in the season) under a cloak for some qualified person, and in the mean time destroy the game; it often happens, qualified persons give a sanction to these people in order to procure game, which as they find no amusement in following or do not wish to be at the trouble to look for, the consequence is dearly fatal to game, for the persons

so employed, takes not only game enough to satisfy his employer and his friends, but takes care to kill such a quantity as will pay him for his trouble and pains; therefore, if qualified sportsmen and gentlemen, would be only at the trouble to find out those people who keep sporting dogs, not being properly qualified,and seize, and fine them, it would not only deter others, but game would be doubly plenty: In the town ofCarlisle, this is well attended to, and the consequence naturally is, that the country all round abounds with game; the magistrates are particularly active there, and the Compiler has known one magistrate to have fined twenty-five people in one day, in consequence of a violation of the game-laws; and extraordinary as it may appear to my readers, a person once gave this magistrate information of a brace of partridges being dressed for dinner, in the house of an unqualified person, who was summoned and fined for the same: this certainly is carrying the laws to the full extent; but let any sportsman go round about Carlisle, and he will see game in plenty in consequence of this attention.

The penalty for an unqualified person only keeping a game dog, is £5, and it is liable to be seized if not directly disposed of.

The next circumstance that occurs to us to investigate, is what amounts to a qualification, besides what the act expressly recites.

It seems rather singular that an officer's pay, above one hundred and fifty pounds a year, does not give a qualification to kill game. Although some officers who are captains in the army

conceive they are exempted from the penalties of the game-laws, by having the title of esquire attached to their names at full length in their commissions, I beg leave to remind them that this very high title is the very means and reason of their becoming liable to them, but if they have a son, he is qualified as being the eldest son of an esquire.

A clergyman's benefice is a life estate, and gives a qualification, to kill game, *vide Lowndes.* v. *Lewis, Caldecott's Cases,* 188.

A diploma conferring the degree of Doctor of Physic, granted by either of the Universities in *Scotland*, does not give a qualification to kill game, but either the officer or doctor may kill game if they are possessed of £100. per annum or have £150. yearly, for life or lives.

It is very singular that it requires fifty times the property, to kill a partridge, as to vote for the right of the shire. 4 *Blackst.* 175. On a question of qualification of a defendant to kill game, the convicting Magistrates may ground their opinion of his not being qualified, on the fact of the defendant's having at any time sworn under the Income act, that his estate was less than £100 per annum. *K.* v. *Clerk, Esq.* G. III. 8. *Durnf. and East.* 220.

But it is very certain, that although the defendant on a former day sworn under the Income act that he had not £100. *per annum*, yet if at any time after, he becomes possessed of income amounting to a qualification, he is not liable to conviction, provided it is after coming to the property that he is in pursuit of game.

GAME-LICENCES.

BY the 25 G. III. c. 50. and 31 G. III. c. 21. Every person in Great-Britain, who shall use any dog, gun, net, or other engine for the taking or destruction of game, (not acting as a gamekeeper) shall deliver in a paper, or an account in writing, containing his name and place of abode, to the Clerk of the Peace, or his deputy, and annually take out a certificate thereof; and every such certificate shall be charged with a stamp duty, of *£3. 3s.*

All Lords of Manors, or other royalties, not under the degree of an Esquire, may, by writing under their hands and seals (A) authorise one or more gamekeeper or gamekeepers, within their respective manors or royalties, 22 and 23 C. II. c. 25. s. 2. and may impower him thereby, upon their own manors, to kill hare, pheasant, partridge, or any other game.

Every deputation of a gamekeeper shall be registered with the Clerk of the Peace of the county in which the manor lies, and such gamekeeper shall annually take out a certificate thereof; which certificate shall be charged with a stamp duty of £1. 1*s*.

If any gamekeeper shall, for the space of twenty-one days, after the 1st of July in every year, or after his appointment, neglect or refuse to register his deputation, and take out a certificate thereof, he is liable to the penalty of £20.

If any gamekeeper, who shall have registered his deputation, and taken out his certificate, shall be changed, and another gamekeeper appointed in his stead, the old certificate is declared to be null and void, and the person acting under the same, after notice, is liable to the penalty of £20. S. 9.

And no such deputation and certificate, shall authorise any gamekeeper to take or destroy game, out of the limits of the manor for which such deputation was given. S. 17.

Every certificate to bear date the day it was issued, and to continue in force until the first day of July then following, on penalty of £20.

After the first day of July, in every year, any person that shall use any greyhound, hound, pointer, setting dog, spaniel, or any other dog, or any gun, net, or engine, for taking or killing of game without a certificate, is liable to the penalty of £20.

From and after the first day of July, in every year, the Clerk of the Peace, shall annually deliver to persons requiring the

same, a certificate or licence, duly stamped, according to the form therein mentioned; for which he shall be entitled to demand one shilling for his trouble, and on refusal, or neglect to deliver the same, shall forfeit £20. This act, in any way, not to extend to the royal family.

The duties to be under the management of the commissioners of the Stamp-office.

The Clerks of the Peace, are to transmit to the Stamp-office in London, alphabetical lists of the certificates granted in every year, before the first day of August, under the penalty of £20.

The list to be kept at the Stamp-office in *London*, and there liable to be inspected by any person who pays one shilling.

The commissioners are once, or oftener in every year, as soon as such lists are transmitted to them, to cause the same to be published in the newspapers, circulating in each county, in such public paper as they shall think most proper.

Any person in pursuit of game, who shall refuse to produce his certificate, or to tell his name or place of abode, or shall give in any false or fictitious name and place of abode to any person requiring the same, who shall have obtained a certificate, is liable to the penalty of £50.

The sportsman will please to recollect, that goods distrained for penalties under the game laws, are not repleviable. 1. *Stra.* 567.

It has often been falsely conceived, that taking out a certificate, gives any person a power to pursue game, although he is not

qualified; this error has often brought several persons into trouble, and I am convinced there are many at this moment, who conceive it to be the case, and are totally in the dark respecting it; and I will venture to assert, let the lists be examined, and several names will be found amongst those who are not qualified.

Indeed a certificate even taken out by a qualified person, or even on his own ground, does not sanction his destroying game; for although a man is qualified, and licenced to kill game, yet he must kill it in a lawful manner, and not in such ways as tends utterly to destroy it. *(Burn.)*

Therefore it is to be understood, that a certificate in the hands of any person, does not authorise them to kill game at any time, prohibited by law, even supposing the person to be qualified; nor does a certificate authorise any person to take or kill game, without the qualification necessary by the act.

If any unqualified person kills game without a certificate, he is liable to two actions; first, the penalty by this act, and secondly, under the penalties annexed to the killing of game, &c.

A qualification to keep a gun, or a dog, &c. &c. is only to hunt in a man's own ground. *Coomb.* 420, 421. *Ld. Raymd.* 150.

But no man qualified and licenced, is authorised to come in and hunt on another man's ground, without being liable to an action of trespass. 2. *Bac. Abr.* 613.

An unqualified person is liable to pay full costs, in any action brought against him for trespass, if proved; but if he is quali-

fied to kill game, and the damage shall be found under forty shillings, he shall, in such case, pay no more costs than damages. 2. *Bac. Abr.* 613.

A gamekeeper's certificate does not authorise him to kill game any where, but only on the manors for which the deputation is given, and the certificate is taken out; nor can any lord or lady of a manor, appoint above one person to be gamekeeper within any one manor, with power to kill game. If a gamekeeper is found off his manor, in pursuit of, or killing game, he is liable to a penalty of £5. And it is necessary also, that every gamekeeper should be duly authorised by writing, under the hand and seal of every lord and lady of a manor, to kill game within the limits of the said manor; and if any gamekeeper shall sell or dispose of the game he shall so kill, without the knowledge or consent of the said lord or lady of the manor, and shall be convicted upon the oath of one witness, before a justice of peace, he shall be committed to the house of correction, and kept to hard labour for three months.

It is very often the pleasure of the lord or lady of manor, to appoint some gentleman to the deputation of it, as a gamekeeper: if in this instance, the deputation is given to a qualified man, who has taken out a certificate, it is not necessary he should take out one as a gamekeeper; but if he should not choose to take out one as a qualified man, and takes one only out as the gamekeeper to the manor, if he should be found out of that manor,

he is liable to be fined, not only as a gamekeeper for coming off the manor, but is also liable to the penalty of shooting without a certificate.

And a gamekeeper, qualified in every sense, has a right to take and seize, all guns, dogs, nets, or any engine he may find for the destruction of game, in the hands or possession of any unqualified person; but there is not any act that impowers him to seize any game he may find in the possession of an unqualified person, at the time he seizes the guns, dogs, or other implements, in the possession of a person found so trespassing.

A game-keeper cannot demand your name or licence, without first producing his, but on producing it, you must give your name, and real place of abode, if he requires it, or produce your certificate; and if you give any name or place of abode, but your real residence, you are liable to a fine of £50. But observe, it is always necessary for every gamekeeper to produce, not only his certificate, but if required, also his deputation, or you are not bound to take his word that he is a gamekeeper.

The form of a deputation is as follows, and must be registered with the Clerk of the Peace of the county wherein the manor lies.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, *John Berkley*, of *Mount-Rascal*, in the County of *Glocester*, *Esq.* lord of the manor of *Traphim*, in the said county, have nominated, deputed, authorised and appointed, and by these presents do nominate,

depute, authorise and appoint, *John Catchim*, of *Stroud*, yeoman, of the said county, to be gamekeeper of, and within my said manor of *Traphim*, with full power, licence, and authority, to pursue, take, and kill any hare, pheasant, partridge, or other game whatsoever, in and upon my said manor of *Traphim*, for my sole and immediate use and benefit; and also to take and seize, all such guns, bows, greyhounds, setting dogs, lurchers, or other dogs; ferrets, tramels, low bells, hangs, or other nets; hare-pipes, snares, or other engines; for the pursuing, taking, or killing of hares, rabbits, pheasants, partridges, or other game, as shall be used within the precincts of my said manor, by every person or persons, who by law, are prohibited to keep or use the same. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 15th. of July, 1801.

JOHN BERKLEY." (seal)

Signed, sealed, and delivered, in the presence of

John Parker, of *Stroud*, aforesaid.

Every qualified person, who first produces a certificate, can demand yours, or your name and place of abode, which if you refuse to give, you are liable to a fine of £50. It does not become necessary for every person to carry his certificate about him, but it is absolutely necessary that every gamekeeper should always have it, or his deputation as gamekeeper, ready to produce.

Any person who counterfeits a certificate, or erases an old date, and inserts a new one, shall suffer death as a felon.

Witnesses refusing to appear on justices summons; or appearing and refusing to give evidence, forfeits £10.

All penalties, exceeding £20. are to be recovered in any of his Majesty's courts at *Westminster*; and penalties not exceeding £20. are recoverable before two justices, and may be levied by distress.

By the 26 G. III. c. 82. the above penalties go half to the king, and half to the informer, if sued for within six months.

Gamekeepers are enumerated among the different descriptions of servants, chargeable with the duty under 25 G. III. c. 43.

GAME ACT

Respecting GROUS, BLACK-GAME, *and* BUSTARD.*

EVERY person who shall shoot at, kill, or destroy, with any gun or bow, any grous, heath-cock, or moor-game, shall on conviction before two justices, by confession or oath of two witnesses, be committed to gaol for three months, unless upon conviction, he pay to the churchwardens, for the use of the poor, twenty shillings for each fowl; or after one month of his com-

* The Compiler has here numbered the several acts as he compiled them, that the reader by referring to the corresponding numbers, in the margin, may see his remarks on the same.

mitment, become bound by recognizance, with two sureties of £20. each, before two justices, not to offend again in like manner: The recognizance to be returned to the next sessions. 1 J. c. 27. s. 2. (1).

No person shall, upon any pretence whatsoever, wilfully take, kill, or destroy, carry, sell, buy, or have in his possession, or use, any heath-fowl, commonly called black game, between *December* 10*th*, and *August* 20*th*; nor any grous, commonly called red game, between the 10*th* of *December*, and the 12*th* of *August*; nor any bustard, between *March* the 1*st*, and *September* the 1*st*, in every year; on pain of forfeiting for the first offence, any sum not exceeding £20. nor less than £10; and for the second, and every subsequent offence, not exceeding £30. nor less than £20; half to the informer, and half to the poor. 13. G. III. c. 25. s. 1. 2. 4. (2.)

These penalties are to be recovered in any of his Majesty's courts at *Westminster*, on prosecution within six calendar months after the offence committed.

(1). In reading this act, it seems as if qualified persons were included in it, and were liable to the penalties under it; but this is not the case, it is only intended for those persons who are not qualified and licenced.

(2). This act is to specify the time that the game, noticed in it, should be killed, but observe, it is only meant with regard to such as are qualified and licenced to do so, and that if you buy game of this description, out of the season, you are as liable to the penalties annexed to the act, as if you shot it; or, if you carry it for any other person, you are likewise liable to the same penalties.

As the same may be recovered before one justice, information on oath being made before him, within three calendar months, after the offence committed; which said justice may convict the offender by confession on oath of one witness: And on neglect or refusal to pay, shall levy the same by distress, together with all costs and charges attending the same, and such justice may order the offender to be detained in safe custody, until return may conveniently be had to the warrant of distress, unless the said offender shall give security, by recognizance, or otherwise, to the satisfaction of such justice, for his appearance before him, on the day appointed for the return of the warrant of distress; such day not exceeding five days, from the time of taking such security. And if no sufficient distress can be had, such justice shall commit the offender to the common gaol, or house of correction, there to be kept to hard labour, for any time not exceeding six nor less than three calendar months, unless the forfeiture, and all costs and charges attending the prosecution, be sooner paid. S. 3. 4. 9. (3).

(3). This shews you how penalties are to be recovered. If you wish to convict before a justice, you are allowed three calendar months to exhibit the charges against the offender; but recollect, you cannot do this, except the penalties exceed £20. as no justice can decide when it exceeds that sum. You must therefore go to the Courts at Westminster, and you are allowed six calendar months to consider of it, or to lay your information at the said Courts, the informer cannot be a witness, but the offender's confession is sufficient grounds for the justice to convict.

FORM OF CONVICTION.

Be it remembered, that on the (date in here) day of (month here) in the year of our Lord, (date of the year here) *J. W.* having appeared before me (justice's name here) one of his Majesty's justices of the peace, for the county of (name of the county here) and due proof having been made upon oath, by one or more creditable witnesses, or by confession of the party, (as the case may be, and also specifying the name of the witness that convicts) is convicted of (here specifying the offence, with the time and place when the same was committed, and also specifying, if known, that it is the first, second, or any subsequent offence against this act, as the case shall be). Given under my hand and seal, the day and year aforesaid.

Signed, R. T.

This conviction, the justice shall cause to be written on parchment, and returned to the next sessions, there to be filed, and kept among the records; and the clerk of the peace shall grant

M. 2. G. II. *K.* v. *Stones,* a conviction was quashed, because the informer was the witness, divers convictions having been quashed for the same reason before. *Ld. Raym.* 1545; the same adjudged in the case of *K.* and *Blaney,* T. 2. G. II. *Andr.* 240. And in the Statute of the 2 G. III. c. 19. it is recited, that in prosecutions on the Act of 8. G. c. 19. in the Courts of Westminster, where a part of the penalty is given to the poor of the parish, the inhabitants of such parish had been not allowed to give evidence; and therefore, in that case, to remedy the same, the act gives the whole penalty to the prosecutor, in order to enable the inhabitants to give evidence.

copies thereof, on payment of one shilling for each copy, S. 6, 7. (4).

And if any person shall think himself aggrieved, he may appeal to any general quarter sessions, to be holden within four calendar months, after the cause of complaint shall arise, giving fourteen days notice, in writing, to the justice, and to every other person against whom complaint shall be made; and in four days after such notice, entering into recognizance before a justice, with one sufficient surety, conditioned to try the appeal at, and abide the order of, and pay such costs as shall be awarded by the justices at such sessions.

And the said justices, upon proof of the notice given, and of the entering into such rccognizance, shall determine the appeal in a summary way, and award costs to either party. And none of the proceedings shall be quashed for want of form, nor removed by certiorari, or other process, into any of the courts at Westminster. S. 10. (5).

(4). Presents the form of conviction necessary to be drawn, if a cause or point should so happen, for it is very necessary that every form should be strictly adhered to, as the smallest deviation, or the want of a necessary word, leaves room for council to try, and quash proceedings so deficient.

(5). This justly shews us, that our glorious Constitution leaves room for the meanest subject to seek redress, should he be convicted illegally; for it must be allowed, great partiality is often shewn by justices of the peace, particularly if a man of great power condescends to come before him, to lodge an information; and it is well known, that such occurrences have recently happened, and the justice has been obliged to convict, not daring

By the 9 Anne, c. 25. if any person whatsoever, shall take or kill any moor, heath-game, or grous, in the night time, he shall, on conviction, before one justice, on the oath of one witness, forfeit £5. half to the informer, and half to the poor, by distress; for want of distress, to be sent to the house of correction for three months for the first offence; and for every other offence, four months.

And by the 13 G. III. c. 18. If any person shall knowingly and wilfully kill, take, or destroy, or use any gun, dog, snare, net, or other engine, *with intent* to kill, take, or destroy, any moor-game, or heath-game in the night, viz. between the hours of seven at night, and six in the morning, from the 12th day of October to the 12th day of February; and between the hours of nine at night, and four in the morning, from the 12th day of February, to the 12th day of October; or in the day-time on a *Sunday*, or *Christmas-day*: He shall forfeit for the first offence, not exceeding £20. nor less than £10; for the second offence, not exceeding £30. nor less than £20; for the third, and every other subsequent offence, £50; to be levied and recovered as

to refuse the orders of the *Bashaw;* but our laws have constituted an appeal to the Courts of Westminster, where neither title nor riches, can turn the scale of justice, and where deservedly, every improper conduct, (let the man be whom he may) is punished without any respect to title, and the poorest of his majesty's subjects may daily get redress.

the like penalties for killing any hare in the night, or on a *Sunday*, or *Christmas-day*, as is above set forth. (6).

For the better preserving the red and black game of grous, commonly called heath-cocks, or heath-polts, no person whatsoever, on any mountains, hills, heaths, moors, forests, chaces, or other wastes, shall presume to burn, between February 2, and June 24, any grig, ling, heath, furze, or fern, on pain of being committed to the house of correction, for any time not exceeding one month, nor less than ten days, there to be whipped, and kept to hard labour. 4, 5. W. c. 23. s. 11.

As here is no method of conviction directed for this offence, the justices of the peace seem to have no cognizance thereof; but

(6). This relates to the destruction of game in the night time; in order to try to prevent poaching, as moon-light nights are the poachers harvest for tunnelling partridges, and destroying every kind of game they can get at. If therefore, any person *qualified*, or not, is seen with nets, dogs or guns, in any field or enclosure, prior to the time limited in the manner, as recited in the said act, No. 6, or after the specified time as said act has recited, is deemed in pursuit of game, and liable to the fines under this act. It was formerly understood that the limitation in respect to the time of the day, to begin and leave of shooting, was half an hour after sun-rise and the same after sun-set; but from the 12th day of October, by this act, you may begin to shoot at six o'clock in the morning, and end at seven at night, every day in that manner, until the 12th day of February; the sun on the 12th day of October does not rise until half-past six o'clock, and sets at about half-past five, so that there is not much restraint or time lost, for you can scarcely see much earlier to shoot in the morning, than the time allowed; and of course, it is but right to fine any person detected acting contrary to the act, for he cannot be on any good business, with dogs, nets, and guns, prior to the time limited.

the trial and conviction must be at the assizes, or in the courts of Westminster.

In the 5 Anne, c. 14, there are particular directions concerning the burning of ling, heath, or brakes, in Sherwood forest, and other places in *Nottinghamshire*, which not being of general concern, are here omitted. (7).

(7). By this act, every person is prohibited from burning the heath on the mountains; in some parts it is pulled up by the roots, and made into bundles for firing, and often set on fire, in order to burn the stock and root of the heath, the ashes of which serve as a kind of manure to the grass, and causes it to grow the following year, not only to be sweeter and more luxuriant, but by burning the roots, the cattle (which in summer are turned in immense flocks to feed) can the more easily come at it, therefore, it is not legal for any person to pull, burn, or in any way destroy the heath, or any cover on a mountain, even allowing it to be his own property; and the law does not point out in any way, a form or conviction necessary to punish the offender in this case, although the act specifies a punishment.

STATUTES

RESPECTING PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS.

PARTRIDGES and Pheasants, are birds of warren, and law seems peculiarly to protect them; as appears by what follows.

By the 11 H. VII. c. 17. it is enacted, that no person, of whatever condition he be, shall take, or cause to be taken, any pheasants or partridges, by nets, snares, or other engines, out of his own warren, upon the freehold of any other person, without the special licence of the owner, or possession of the same; on pain of £10. half to him that shall sue, and half to the

owner or possessioner of the ground where they shall be taken. (1).

Every person who shall shoot at, kill, or destroy, any pheasant, or partridge, with any gun, or bow; or shall take, kill, or destroy them with setting dogs, or nets; or with any manner of nets, snares, engines, or instruments whatsoever; or shall take their eggs out of the nests, or spoil them in the nest; shall, on conviction, before two justices, by confession, or oath of two witnesses, be committed to gaol for three months, unless he pay unto the churchwarden, for the use of the poor, twenty shill-

(1). It is very evident, that this particular act is very deficient in the wording of it, for as it was certainly intended to prevent one person from shooting or sporting on the grounds of his neighbour, or any other person, without his leave, it should have been differently worded; for, as it now stands, it is either not clearly understood, or it is not put in force; for if it is admitted that it is understood by the act, that any person who shoots, or kills the game, as well as takes or causes it to be taken, it should have been so specified; and which by the words *otherwise* been omitted, in my mind, as well as many others, it seems to be a very lame act; for if any owner, or lord of manor, could summons the party so offending, and convict him, as the act at present stands, it only implies dogs, and nets, and taking, or causing to be taken, they could be only made to pay the fine of £10; for if it implies those who shoot, any person qualified, or not, can be fined £10. if he shoots without the owner's leave of the ground, and as the fine is only £10. it comes under the cognizance of a justice of peace; but what is very certain, is, that if it any way applied to a sportsman shooting, it would give a great deal of trouble and litigation; for all the owners of the ground, or lord of the manor would have to do, on detecting any person, and having one witness, would be to go before a justice, and the fine of £20. would be instantly levied, without any use of warning, but the Compiler thinks this act is only intended to protect warrens, which is deemed more valuable.

ings for every pheasant, partridge or egg; or after one month after his commitment, become bound by recognizance with two sureties, before two justices, in £20. each, not to offend again in like manner. The recognizance to be returned to the next sessions. 1 J. c. 27. s. 2.

And by the 7 J. c. 11. Every person who shall take, kill, or destroy, any pheasant or partridge, with setting dogs, and nets, or otherwise, with any manner of nets, snares, or engines, shall, on conviction before two justices, by confession, or oath of one witness, be committed to gaol for three months, unless he forthwith pay to the churchwardens or overseers, twenty shillings for every pheasant or partridge; and further to become bound by recognizance of £20. before one justice, that he shall not thereafter kill or destroy any pheasant or partridge. The recognizance to be filed at the next sessions. (2).

Every person who shall sell, or buy to sell again, any partridge or pheasant, (except they are reared and brought up in houses, or brought from beyond seas,) shall, on conviction, at the assizes, or sessions, or before two justices out of sessions, fofeit for every partridge ten shillings, and for every pheasant twenty shillings, half to him that shall sue, and half to the poor. 1 J. c. 27. s. 4. (3).

(2). This extends to the protection of pheasants and partridges out of season, as well as their eggs.

(3). This act is to prevent poachers, tavern-keepers, and every person qualified or unquali-

By the 33 El. c. 10. If any person, of what estate, degree, or condition soever, shall take, kill, or destroy any pheasants or partridges, in the night-time; and be thereof convicted at the assizes, sessions, or leet; he shall forfeit for every pheasant twenty shillings, and for every partridge ten shillings, half to him that shall sue, and half to the lord of the manor; unless such lord shall licence, or procure the said taking or killing, in which case, the said half shall go to the poor, to be recovered by any one of the churchwardens; and if not paid in ten days after conviction, he shall be imprisoned for one month: And moreover, besides such forfeiture and imprisonment, he shall give bond to some justice of the peace, with good sureties, not to offend again, in like manner, for the space of two years.

By the 9 Anne, c. 25. If any person whatsoever, shall take or kill, any pheasant or partridge, in the night-time; he shall, on conviction before one justice, on oath of one witness, forfeit £5.

fied, from buying or selling any game, on any account whatsoever; but it does not extend to punish any person for selling them, that either rears them or brings them from beyond the seas.

But let it be recollected, for preventing wilful and malicious trespasses, it is enacted, by 8 and 9 W. III. c. 11. that in all actions of trespass, in any of the courts of Record, at Westminster, wherein at the trial of the cause, it should appear, and be certified by the judge under his hand, or the clerk of the record, that the trespass upon which any defendant shall be found guilty, was wilful and malicious, the plaintiff shall not only recover his damages, but his full cost of suit. Under this statute, therefore, if the owner of the land expressly forewarns another not to come thereon, he will in an action of trespass subsequent thereto, be entitled to full costs, notwithstanding the damages recovered be under forty shillings.

half to the informer, and half to the poor, by distress; for want of distress, to be sent to the house of correction for three months, for the first offence, and for every other offence four months.

And by the 13 G. III. c. 80. If any person shall knowingly and wilfully kill, take, or destroy, or use any gun, dog, snare, net, or other engine, with intent to kill, take, or destroy, any pheasant or partridge in the night, that is, between the hours of seven at night, and six in the morning, from the 12th day of October, to the 12th day of February; and between the hours of nine at night, and four in the morning, from the 12th day of February to the 12th day of October; or in the day-time, or on a *Sunday*, or *Christmas-day*; he shall forfeit for the first offence, not exceeding £20. nor less than £10; for the second offence, not exceeding £30. nor less than £20; and for the third, and every subsequent offence £50. To be levied and recovered as the like penalties, for killing any hare in the night, or on a *Sunday*, or *Christmas-day* as is set forth.

Finally, by the 2 G. III. c. 19. No person shall, upon any pretence whatsoever, take, kill, carry, sell, buy, or have in his possession, or use, any partridge between February 1st, and September the 1st; or any pheasant between February 1st, and October the 1st yearly; on pain of forfeiting, on conviction, by one witness, in any of the courts of Record, at *Westminster*, £5. for every such fowl, with full costs. But this not to extend to any pheasant taken in the season, allowed by this act, and kept in any *mew* or *breeding place*.

LAWS RESPECTING HARES.

IT is to be understood, that what has already been laid down in the preceding pages, under the title of game laws, tend in this, as well as other particulars to hares, to prevent their being destroyed as game; but as there are particular acts of parliament respecting hares, it will be necessary for the Compiler to lay them before his readers.

No person of what estate, degree, or condition he be, shall trace, destroy, and kill, any hare in the snow, with any dog, bitch, bow, nor otherwise. And the sessions or leet, many inquire thereof; and after inquisition found, they shall, for every hare so killed, cess upon every offender six shillings and eight-pence, to be forfeited to the king, if in the sessions; and to the lord of the leet, if in the leet, 14, 15, H. VIII. c. 10.

And by the 1 J. c. 27. Every person who shall trace, or course, any hares in the snow, shall, on conviction before two justices, by confession, or oath of two witnesses, be committed to gaol for three months, unless he pay to the churchwardens, for the use of the poor, twenty shillings for every hare; or after one month after his commitment, become bound by recognizance, with two sureties in £20. each, before two justices, not to offend again in like manner. S. 2. (1).

And by the said last mentioned act, every person who shall, at any time, take or destroy any hares, with hare-pipes, cords, or any such instrument, or other engines, shall forfeit for every hare, twenty shillings, in like manner. 1 J. c. 27. s. 2.

And by the 22 & 23 C. II. c. 25. s. 6. If any person shall be found, or apprehended, setting or using, any snares, hare-pipes, or other like engines, and shall be thereof convicted, by confession, or oath of one witness, before one justice, in one month after the offence; he shall give to the parties injured, such damages, and in such time, as the justice shall appoint; and shall pay down presently to the overseers for the use of the poor, such sum, not exceeding ten shillings, as the justice shall appoint; which if he shall not do, the justice shall commit him to the house of correction, not exceeding one month.

(1). By this act, every person is liable to the penalty under it, for tracing or destroying hares in the snow, whether the person is qualified or not; or if on his own ground, he is equally liable to the penalties.

By the 9 An. c. 25. If any person whatsoever, shall take, or kill, any hare, in the night-time, he shall, on conviction before one justice, or oath of one witness, forfeit £5. half to the informer, and half to the poor, by distress; for want of distress, to be sent to the house of correction for three months for the first offence, and for every other offence four months. S. 3.

And by the 13 G. III. c. 80. If any person shall knowingly, and wilfully kill, take, or destroy, or use any gun, dog, snare, net, or other engine; with intent to kill, take, or destroy, any hare in the night; that is to say, between the hours of seven at night, and six in the morning, from the 12th day of October, to the 12th day of February; and between the hours of nine at night and four in the morning, from the 12th day of February, to the 12th day of October; or in the day-time, upon a *Sunday*, or *Christmas-day*; he shall, on conviction, on the oath of one witness, before one justice, forfeit for the first offence not exceeding £20. nor less than £10; and for the second offence, not exceeding £30. nor less than £20.

Form of conviction.

Be it remembered, that on the (date here) day of (day here) in the year of our Lord (year here) F. G. is convicted before me, (justices name here) one of his Majesty's justices of peace for the county of (name of the county where the offence was committed and specifying the offence, with the time and place where the

same was committed, and also specifying whether it was the first or second offence against this act).

Given under my hand and seal,
this day and year aforesaid.

Which conviction, the said justice shall cause to be fairly written on parchment, and returned to the next sessions, to be filed by the clerk of the peace; who shall, upon application to him made, deliver copies thereof, on payment of one shilling for each copy.

But in case any information shall be made upon oath, as aforesaid, before a justice, against an offender, and it shall appear that such offender hath already been convicted of a first and second offence, in such case the justice shall commit him to the common gaol, or house of correction, till the next general quarter sessions, unless he shall have entered into recognizance with two sufficient sureties, to appear at such sessions, then and there to be tried by indictment for the said offence; and such justices shall also bind over the informer to prosecute the said offender by indictment as aforesaid: And, if upon such indictment, the offender shall be convicted, he shall forfeit and pay in court, the sum of £50; and if he shall neglect or refuse to pay the same, he shall be committed to the common gaol, or house of correction, for not less than six, nor more than twelve calendar months, unless such penalty shall be sooner paid; and the said offender

shall, if the justices think proper, be once publicly whipped, at the expiration of such commitment, in the town or place where such gaol, or house of correction shall be, between the hours of twelve and one in the day. Provided, that no proceedings shall be upon this act, unless information on oath be made before a justice, within one calendar month after the offence is committed. *

The said forfeiture for the first and second offence, and also for the third offence, on conviction at the sessions, together with the costs and charges previous to, and attending such conviction, (to be ascertained by the justice or justices, before whom the offender shall be convicted) shall be forthwith paid, half to the informer, and half to the poor. And if such person shall refuse or neglect to pay the same, or to give security for the payment thereof, such justice, or justices, shall cause, by their warrant, the same to be levied by distress; and the said justice or justices, may order such offender to be detained in safe custody, until return may conveniently be had, to the warrant of distress; unless the party shall give sufficient security, by recognizance, or

* In respect to the third offence, here seems to be an inconsistency. The former part of this act says, if the offender shall not, upon conviction by indictment at the sessions, pay in court, the penalty of £50. he shall be committed to the gaol, or house of correction, for not less than six months, nor more than twelve. The latter part of the act says, the said penalty shall be levied by distress; and if no distress can be had, the offender shall be committed to the gaol, or house of correction, for three months, with power of appealing to the sessions, then next following; with other circumstances seemingly absurd.

otherwise, to the satisfaction of such justice or justices, for his appearance before the said justice or justices, on the day appointed for the return of the said warrant, not exceeding seven days from the taking such security: And if upon such return, no sufficient distress can be had, the justice, or justices shall commit the offender to the common gaol, or house of correction, for three calendar months, unless the forfeiture shall be sooner paid, or until such offender, thinking himself aggrieved by such conviction, shall give notice to the informer that he intends to appeal at the next sessions, and shall enter into a recognizance before a justice, with two sufficient sureties, conditioned to try such appeal, and to abide the order of, and pay such costs, as shall be awarded by the justices at such sessions; which notice shall be not less than fourteen days before the trial of the appeal. And the justices, at such sessions, on proof of such notice, and recognizance, shall determine the appeal in a summary way, and award unto either party as they shall judge proper.

And if the offender dwells in another county, the justice or justices, before whom the information or indictment was made, may direct their warrant of apprehension, and of distress, to any constable where the offence was committed, to be by him carried to a justice near residing, where the offender dwells, to be signed by him, on the back of the said warrant, upon proof, on oath, of the hand-writing of the justice who first granted the warrant; which indorsement shall be sufficient authority, for

the constable of the place where he dwells, or where his goods and chattels are, or for the constable who brings the warrant to be endorsed, to apprehend and convey the offender before the justice who first granted the warrant, or any other justice of the county, where the offence was committed, or for such constable to levy the penalty by distress; and also, in case where no sufficient distress can be had, to convey the offender before the justice who first granted the warrant of distress, or any other justice of that county, where the offence was committed, to be dealt with according to law. And the justice, who endorsed the warrant, shall direct the constable or other person making the distress, to deliver over the money levied to the justice who first granted the warrant; and if such constable, or other person, shall neglect, or refuse to pay such sum, or deliver over all proceedings upon such distress, or warrant of apprehension, the justice, who first granted the warrant, or the justice who endorsed it, may commit him to the common gaol, or house of correction, for six, months, or until the money shall be paid, and the proceedings delivered over.

And no order made, or any other proceedings upon this act, shall be quashed for want of form, or removed by certiorari, or other writ, into any of the courts at *Westminster*.

Every person who shall shoot at, kill, or destroy, any hare, with any gun, or bow, shall, on conviction before two justices, by confession, or oath of two witnesses, be committed to gaol

three months, unless he pay to the churchwardens, for the use of the poor, twenty shillings for every hare; or after one month after his commitment, become bound by recognizance, with two sureties, before two justices in £20. each, not to offend again in like manner. The recognizance to be returned to the next sessions. 1 J. c. 27. s. 2. (2).

Every person who shall sell, or buy to sell again, any hare, shall, on conviction, at the assizes or sessions, or before two justices out of the sessions, forfeit for every hare, ten shillings, half to the poor, and half to him that will sue. 1 J. c. 27. s. 4.

By the Black act, before mentioned, if any person armed or disguised, shall appear in any warren or place where hares are

(2). No person whatsoever, either qualified or not, or on his own property, is authorised to shoot any hare, or if informed against, he is liable to the penalty under this act, and the Compiler believes the fine is now, by some late act, increased to forty shillings.

If a qualified person goes a shooting, and kills many hares in the same day, he only pays the same penalty he would have been forced to pay if he had only killed one, for it is but one offence; but if he goes several days, suppose seven, the offences are seven, and by laying seven separate informations, he is liable to the like number of penalties.

If ten people go out in a party, and a hare is killed, only one penalty can be recovered, although it rests with the informer, to choose which of the number he prosecutes. *Vide 2 Term Rep.* 713.

But it is not necessary to proceed by information to recover penalties, for destroying hares, for the statute has appointed a summary proceeding before justices of the peace, and this mode must be particularly resorted to.

It is necessary to shew, or set forth in the information, that the hare is found upon the person or party, or the conviction is liable to be quashed. *Mod. Ca.* 57.

usually kept, or unlawfully rob any such warren, (whether armed and disguised or not) or shall rescue any person in custody for either of the said offences, or procure any person to join with him in any such unlawful act, he shall be guilty of felony without benefit of clergy. (3).

(3). This comes under the Black act, and every person seen disguised, or if in a warren is detected with any engines or destroying hares, is subject to death as a felon.

MUTINY ACT.

BY the annual mutiny act, s. 49, if any *officer* or *soldier,* shall without leave of the lord of the manor, under his hand and seal, take, kill, or destroy, any hare, coney, pheasant, partridge, or any other sort of fowls, poultry, fish, or his Majesty's game, and be thereof convicted before a justice, on the oath of one witness: every officer so offending, shall forfeit £5. to the poor of the place; and every officer commanding in chief upon the place, shall forfeit twenty shillings for every such offence, committed by any soldier under his command; and if such officer, after demand, by the constable, or overseer, shall not pay the penalties within two days, he shall forfeit his commission.*

* On this act vide the pages under the title of general remarks, and hints on the game Laws.

SELLING OF GAME.

IF any person of whatever description, they may be, qualified or unqualified, shall sell or expose to sale, any hare, pheasant, partridge, or other game, they are liable to *£5.* penalty, or in default of payment, three months imprisonment.

If any gamekeeper shall, under any colour whatsoever, sell, or dispose of any game, without the lord of the manor's consent, and be convicted thereof, on complaint of such lord, and on oath of one witness, before one justice, he shall be committed to the house of correction for three months, to be kept to hard labour. 5 An. c. 14. s. 4.

If game is found in the house, shop, or possession of any poulterer, salesman, fishmonger, cook, or pastry-cook, not qualified to kill game, shall be taken cognizance of, under the act, and

deemed as exposing to sale. 5 An. c. 14. An. c. 25. s. 2. 28 G. II. c. 1.

Any person buying game, is liable to the same penalties as if he exposed it for sale; and if any kind of game whatever is found in the house, or possession of any unqualified person, he is liable to the same penalty as if he pursued and killed it.

Higlers, chapmen, carriers, inn-keepers, alehouse-keepers, victuallers, having in their custody any hare, pheasant, partridge, moor, heath-game, or grous, or any kind of game (except sent by some person qualified to kill game) shall forfeit for every hare and fowl, £50. to be levied by distress, and sale of their goods, being proved by one witness before a justice; and for want of distress, shall be committed to the house of correction for three months; one moiety to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish wherein the offence is committed.

If any person, who destroys, or buys, or sells game, shall lay information against others, who buy, or sell, or offer so to do, shall be imdemnified himself from the penalties. 5. An. c. 14. s. 3.

All penalties recovered under the game laws, and which are sued for in *Westminster*, shall be given to the informer; and not any part of the said penalties shall, on any account be given to the poor of the parish.

In the case of *K.* and *King*, *Parker*, ch. J. said, that walking about with intent to kill game, is evidence of using the instrument for that purpose. 1 sess, c. 88.

GENERAL REMARKS, HINTS, and OBSERVATIONS,

necessary for every Sportsman to be acquainted with.

THE Compiler having taken counsel's opinion, with respect to the game laws, on several cases, which is highly necessary for the information of every sportsman who follow shooting, thought it more advisable not to insert it in this work, as it would render it voluminous; and as the cases are so many and so long, it would be also tiresome to the reader. However the subscribers and readers may rest assured, that every necessary information respecting them, is submitted in the following lines, on a small scale; and the Compiler pledges his reputation and honour, that every circumstance recited, when the sportsman is at a loss how to act, is here laid down from the opinion of the most eminent counsel.

It now remains with the Compiler, to make some remarks on the game laws, &c. Every sportsman, it will be allowed, may often, through ignorance, stray on the manor of his neighbour; and certain it is, that every gentleman should ask leave, from the owner of the ground, prior to his going on it. I am confident, that one half of the sportsmen do not ask leave, fearful of being refused by some of those who are remarked to be niggardly of their game; and if they find a heart to grant leave, the permission is given so grudgingly, that the favour is painfully accepted, and the obligation not worth the thanks. Thus the sense of gratitude is impaired, by the ungracious mode of the grantor.

The sportsman's keenness in pursuit of game, often deprives him of the necessary caution, he should have at all times, in restraining himself from unlawfully trespassing on the grounds of another; which through want of prudence, makes him liable, and subjects him to, an action for damages, entitled an action of trespass.

A trespass is the entry on another man's ground, without his leave, and doing him some damage, however inconsiderable to his property; and every such entry is considered by the law (unless in particular cases) as an injury to the owner, for which an action of trespass will lie, and for which a satisfaction is recoverable, according to the malicious intent of the trespasser, and in proportion to the damage actually committed. These actions were formerly carried to an iniquitous extent, and in the

hands of ill-natured and illiberal persons, frequently became oppressive engines of malice, against those who had committed a trespass from pure ignorance or inadvertency; and who, though nominal damages only were given, were obliged to pay the whole expence of the suit.

In order therefore, to prevent these trifling and vexatious actions, it is enacted, by 43 Eliz. c. 6. and 22, 23. Car. II. c. 9. s. 136, that when a jury, who try an action of trespass, give less damages than forty shillings, the plaintiff shall be allowed no more costs than damages, unless (as is provided, by 8, 9. Will. and Mary, c. 11.) it shall appear that the trespass was wilful and malicious. By a wilful trespass, is meant, a person coming on the ground of another, (after being forbidden, or receiving a warning,) with an intent to kill game, or to annoy and vex the owner; in this case, it is considered a wilful trespass, and although you do not commit any damage to the property or game of the owner, yet he shall receive full costs, although the damages may be under forty shillings; and where this occurs, or seems to be the case, the judge is bound to certify, and he is required so to do in court immediately upon the trial, *Esp. Ni. Pri.* 424. 5. *Wms. Just.* 80.

Game would be much more plenty were the owners of manors, more liberal in granting permission to fair sportsmen, on application; a leave given with cheerfulness to a sportsman, when properly sollicited, will be the surest means to preserve the game,

for every gentleman who obtains leave not only feels a restraint from destroying it, but will the less seldom make a practice of going on the grounds of the person who has, perhaps, so liberally given him leave, and if he meets any poachers, will be sure to give the necessary precaution to his friend.

If every lord of a manor, or the esquire would follow the example of the *Duke de Longueville*, when they are pestered by the continual complaints of their keepers, the game would not only derive safety from it, but poachers would not so often be resorted to, and sent to destroy the game on their manors, through pique perhaps in consequence of an uncivil refusal; the owner would find his popularity greatly increased, and the game instead of being injured would be better preserved. When it was represented to that nobleman, that his neighbours were continually hunting on his grounds and killing his hares, which they insisted he ought to prevent, he instantly replied, I would much rather have friends than hares. If we turn for a moment and investigate who is qualified, and who is not, it would be found that many persons have, and are now sporting and shooting, that conceive they have a right so to do, supposing they are qualified, but which on investigation will be found not to be the case.

The circumstance of being possessed of £100. per annum, is not so properly a qualification as an exemption from the game laws, but I wish it to be understood at the same time, that persons so exempted, are notwithstanding liable as well to actions

of trespass by the owners of land, as also if they kill game within any royal franchise, to actions by such as have the right of free warren therein, 2. *Blacst. Com.* 418.

It has for a long time been erroneously conceived by *Irish* gentlemen, that their being qualified in *Ireland*, is qualification enough for them to pursue and kill game in *England*, and are led to believe that since the union, if there was any doubt, it is now certainly done away, but as I feel it incumbent on me to undeceive them, I can assure them that unless they are possessed of £100. per annum, in their own or their wife's right, or £150. per annum on a lease of 99 years, or for any longer term, or for life in *England*, they are not exempted from the penalties of the game laws. And the act of union does not recite or take the smallest notice of any thing, relative to the game laws.

In the fourth article of the *Scotch* act of union, these words are to be found, *there shall be a communication of all rights except where expressly agreed to the contrary*, and as there is not any thing respecting the game laws expressed in the *Scotch* act of union, of course all *Scotchmen* are considered qualified if they are possessed of the estates the game laws require.

In the *Irish* act of union, there is no such clause or reservation to enable an *Irishman* to claim a right of qualification, except he is possessed of the necessary property in *England*, required by the game laws for that purpose.

The late *Lord Clare*, late chancellor of *Ireland* assured his *Irish*

friends that they might shoot, and consider themselves as qualified persons, after the union took place, but in order to place this misunderstanding out of all doubt, the Compiler has taken the oppinion of several eminent counsel and they all agree, that an *Irishman* is not qualified by the act of union, except he has property in this kingdom; they add it is a new question, but that after a minute inspection of the act of union, they are of opinion that an *Irish* estate is not a qualification to kill game in *England.*

And by the same rule an *Englishman* is not qualified to kill game in *Ireland,* except he has the property in that country that the game laws require in that Kingdom. *

The clause in the mutiny act, respecting game, is one of the severest laws that was ever made; to make one man liable to be ruined by the conduct of another, is a circumstance totally contradictory to that freedom and justice, which has ever been conspicuous in Great-Britain, and handed as a pattern to the rest of the world. In this case, as the act stands, if a private soldier, wishes to do any injury to his officer, all he has to do is to begin by destroying game, and the officer may be deprived of his commission, which perhaps may be his only fortune or property.

In respect to that part of the act, that relates to the officer paying £5. to the poor of the place, that is also severe enough; why should he not be liable, like every subject, to an action

* For more respecting Irish qualification, look under the head of shooting, and general remarks.

of trespass? the only reason that can be accounted, or assigned, for this very strict act towards the army, I should suppose is, that it was in order to obviate any jealousies between them and the inhabitants, where they might happen to be quartered. It was for a long time conceived, that if any officer went out to shoot, he was to lose his commission at all events; but to those who will take the trouble to read the act, they will find that they are not liable to lose it except they neglect to pay the *£5.* recited in the act, within the space of time therein limited; and every officer will please to recollect, that if he should transgress, and make himself liable to the penalty, that if he shoots ever so many head of game, provided it is done in the same day, it is but one offence.

An officer's commission, does not exempt him from the penalties of the game laws, although, after a certain rank attained he is an esquire, except he is properly qualified under the act; for although a colonel is an esquire, he cannot shoot, notwithstanding his son may without any estate. 1 *Term Report*, 44.

If we consider that a lieutenant of cavalry's pay, amounts to more than £150. a year, it seems rather singular, it does not exempt him from the penalties of the gamelaws, although a clergyman is exempted, having a living to that amount: And then how much more severe is it, that an esquire is not exempted and his eldest son is? but this, however unreasonable it may seem or appear, I can assure my readers has been fully settled to be the true construction of the act.

'A justice of peace is also an esquire, for the time he is in the commission, but no longer. Persons of higher degree than esquires, colonels, sergeants at law, and doctors in the three learned professions; but neither esquires, nor any one of those here mentioned, are qualified to kill game, unless they have the requisite estates mentioned in the preceding pages; although their eldest sons are. The eldest son of a justice of peace is qualified, as being the eldest son of an esquire, although the justice himself is not, and the qualification ceases with the son, so soon as the father gives up the commission, if he is only barely qualified in his fathers holding the commission of the peace.

Esquires are the younger sons of noblemen, and their heirs male for ever; the four esquires of the king's body; the eldest sons of baronets; the eldest sons of knights of the bath, knights batchelors, and their heirs male in a right line.

There is not any circumstance that tends so much, to the total extirpation of game, as a neglect of both the magistrates and sportsmen, who allow poulterers and inn-keepers to buy and sell it. It is not to be wondered at, that laws of every description should be set at defiance, when this violation of the game laws is winked at, and indeed encouraged by many: the prevention of poulterers and inn-keepers, from selling, or having in their possession, any game, would be in a great measure the means of preventing, the nocturnal poacher from taking, at least, only one-half of the game he at present finds a market for;

and what adds more to the destruction of game, is the shameful practice of *qualified* men, permitting poulterers and inn-keepers to make use of their names; for the moment that either of these publicans are threatened with a prosecution, they directly say, *Mr.* ———, naming a qualified gentleman, sent it to them, and almost all inn-keepers and poulterers have permission, from some qualified friend to make use of their name; and to add still to the annihilation of game, gamekeepers aid and assist in robbing their masters of it. There is, at present, one poulterer in *London*, who pays £60. per annum, to each of five different gamekeepers for game. It happened not long since, in the city of *Bath*, that a gentleman from *Devonshire*, wanted a brace of pheasants, and applied to a pastry cook in that city, who told him if he would call next morning he would have a brace for him, and on asking him some questions, found out it was no other than his own gamekeeper, who was to send them up, and that he was to pay for his own game. In the same city, in the last season, there were dressed in one tavern, and in one day for dinner, *fourteen brace of partridges and twenty-seven hares.*

Is it then surprising that the game should be so shamefully reduced, in opposition to every law, resistance to all order, and absolutely to the great encouragement of poachers; who, as *Mr. Daniel* remarks, are in such numbers, and are so trained to rapine and plunder, that every manor and village is infested by them, and frequently experience every species of robbery,

from the fold to the hen-roost, and sometimes by burglary; and whose dexterity almost bids defiance to precaution. Accustomed to the ensnaring of game, to the secrecy of fraud, and committing their depredations amidst the silence of night, those horrors, and that consequent dread, which frequently deters from the commission of great offences, gradually lose their effect.

Solitude and darkness, which have where-withal to appal the human mind in its first deviations into guilt, are divested of their terror in those pilfering pursuits: It is to this initiation they ascribe their subsequent enormities, when guilt, however trifling, becomes by repetition familiar to the mind, it is not so easily subdued, it requires a strong mind to arrest its iniquity in its career, and it generally so happens, that those who commit such offences are totally ignorant and destitute of education, without which, they have it not in their power to discern the enormities they are then about to commit.

The misfortune is, that a person of this description feels no remorse in the infamy of his newly acquired practices, and proceeds without thinking to a state of the most compleat degeneracy. For although the culprit begins with these trespasses, which he perhaps may conceive to be small, he by degrees creeps into the greatest felonies; *Nemo fit repente turpissimus*: like the young boy in the fable, who began by robbing orchards, but escaping punishment at first, he increased his crimes with his age, and ended

his life at the gallows. Game is a species of property, of which a poacher has so indistinct a conception, that he scarcely thinks he has committed a moral injustice, by the various stratagems by which he has contrived to obtain it; he sees not that the claim of a stranger is better than his; he knows not where the absolute right to another to that which he has taken is denied; his companions, to whom he recounts his manœuvres, are more likely to commend his cunning, than to reprove his crime. Thus the remorse of conscience being but slight and feeble, in the outset, the wretch is encouraged by degrees to trample on the laws with greater boldness, and at last suffers as a felon.

It is remarked, by a writer on the game laws, that in a highly cultivated, well peopled country, no animal can be properly considered as wild; all are supported by the property and labour of those, who cultivate the soil; some, from their peculiar instincts, are, indeed, less capable than others, of being appropriated, and therefore, like lands uninclosed, are held as a joint property. But he who has no land, and consequently contributes nothing to their maintenance, is no more entitled to any use of them, than the inhabitants of one parish has to a right of commonage, on the waste lands of another; and he, who chooses to reside in a town, and to keep his property in money, has no more a pretence to seize for his own use, a hare, or a partridge, than a sheep, or a goose, from him who has chosen to vest his property in land: In the former, as well as in the latter case, he ought to tempt the owner to sell what is wanted,

It will be now acceptable to my readers, I trust, to quote what *Mr. William Taplin* has judiciously remarked, on that which has been said in the foregoing pages, as well worthy the attention of every sportsman. "Every rational observer and good subject, will admit, that the game laws ought to be obeyed; although the great and infinite body of poachers, and that much greater infinity, their abettors, seem to be of a direct opposite opinion. However just, proper, and habitual, such laws may have been in their formation, and laudable in their continuance, little reliance can be placed upon the deceptive expectation of a reduction in the number of poachers, sanctioned and supported as they are, by thousands in the metropolis, and the middle classes of people in every city, town, and village, from one extremity of the island to the other."

If there is one of his Majesty's subjects so weak, or unexperienced, as to suppose any one species of game is *difficult* to be obtained, he must be deplorably ignorant in the common occurrences of life, and requires to be informed that the whole *art* and *trade* of poaching, is carried on almost as public as the noon-day sun, during the whole of the season; and no one of that commercial and opulent body in the city, or epicure in the suburbs, sits down without game at his table whenever he pleases to order it: It is not the business of a steward, butcher, or housekeeper, to expostulate upon what may be immediately obtained for money, with a consolatory verification of the school-boy's well-known

adage, that "one good turn deserves another;" and money in one hand, can invariably procure game for the other.

There has always been two opinions held, respecting the policy and prudence of the game laws, between two classes of people equally opposite to each other; the *highest* and the *lowest;* in support of which, it has been the persevering practice of the former, to enact laws for the protection, of what they conceive, their *right;* and the latter has been as invariably engaged, (from one generation to another) in devising plans to counteract and undermine it; thus, the *cunning* of one, is engaged in a perpetualy war with the power of the other, and most probably it will re quire centuries to ascertain the victor.

Here the eye of impartiality will naturally avert, to a passage of a writer lately quoted, who is of opinion, that "a person having *no land,* and who chooses to keep his property in *money,* has no more right to a hare, or a partridge, than he has to a *sheep,* or a *goose,* from him who has chosen to vest his property in land." This writer, probably, in his hasty zeal, to exalt the landed interest above its proper weight, in the scale of wealth, had totally forgotten (or never knew) that great national disparity, of immunity, called the *Bank of England,* situated in the *city of London;* the *millions* eternally in motion, through the medium of commerce, and moving in all directions, to every quarter of the globe; as well as to the *East* and *West-Indies*; possessions, even to an extent of riches beyond conception. All these to gratify

the *self-importance* of the holders of a *little land*, the learned writer had found it convenient to bury in oblivion.

Sir Roger de Coverly would, most probably, have said, (could he at this time have been consulted on the subject) "much may be said on both sides;" in saying which, he would have spoken wisely; for it cannot be conceived, that every individual, of the infinity of *stock-holders*, who loyally place an implicit confidence in the stability of government, and embark all their property to support it, does not feel himself *equally* affected with the appetites of a *gentleman*, as he who possesses a £100. a year in land; and not feeling more disposed to sacrafice at the *shrine* of *self-denial*, than his neighbour finds it necessary to avail himself of all the comforts and advantages to be derived from his *money*, that the other does from his land; under which candid and important consideration, it is fair to conclude, that so long as there shall be a natural propensity to good living, and the delicacies which Providence has so plentifully bestowed; so long as the monied *thousands* of the metropolis, shall incline to believe they are *entitled* to a participation; and so long as game shall be *bred*, and human degeneracy in the lower classes of society continue; so long will *poachers* continue undiminished; in opposition to every means, that the utmost limits of human wisdom can suggest for their extirpation.

Gamekeepers are another systematic set of poachers, although they are delegated by legal prescription, purposely to preserve

and protect it, from those very set of adventurers, with whom, many of the gamekeepers are in habits of the greatest friendship with; these form a pest, or band, which are all united.

When once a gamekeeper sells game to a tavern-keeper, or a stage-coachman, he is in a very awkward predicament; for what before was bestowed as a favour, will be demanded (by the person to whom he sells, or from whom he receives a bribe) as a right, and he is forced to comply, sooner than be exposed, and hids ishonesty publicly avowed.

Every gentleman who wishes to preserve game, should not have a gamekeeper who is a good shot; if he is a dead shot, he is hired for the destruction, and not for the preservation of the game; it will be better for his employer, if he is well versed in the destruction of all kinds of vermin.

It is a great misfortune for any gentleman, whose manor is close to a large town, for as to finding a gamekeeper who is honest, (that is, I mean, that would not accept of five or six shillings for a brace of partridges) you might as well expect to meet virtue at a certain house in *King's Place*.

As I said before, the landlord of the inn is well acquainted with all the poachers, and they get him to invite the gamekeeper to spend an evening with him, in order that they may not only serve the landlord with game, but themselves; and are hard at work, while *Bonniface* and the keeper are drinking; when the coaches stop, *coachee*, of course, pays an advanced price to

the landlord, gamekeeper, and poacher; who all, unknown to each other, are loading the coach: and when it arrives in *London*, the poulterer demands, from eighteen shillings, to one guinea a brace, for pheasants; six or seven shillings a brace, for partridges; and four to six shillings for a hare; and these are eagerly purchased, even before the proper day allowed by act of parliament for taking them, although there is a severe penalty attached to any purchaser or seller, qualified or not.

There are a certain description of gamekeepers employed to shoot by the head; no poacher, even in the night, can be more destructive to game, than persons of this description; every one of them should be well watched by their neighbours, or they will destroy, and rob all the manors, contiguous to that for which they are deputed.

A gamekeeper should not be allowed to break any dogs but his master's, for several reasons; first, it will give him as much as he can do to break those of his master's, so as to do them and him justice; and secondly, the birds will be sufficiently disturbed in the morning season, with the hunting of his master's dogs, without introducing other dogs, and producing further confusion.

Gamekeepers are a description of those kind of fellows, who often take the laws in their own hands, and are very impertinent to gentlemen, when perhaps there is not the smallest provocation for such conduct; and this is all done with a view and intent, to impress an idea of vigilance and activity for their

employer; when, perhaps, at the very time, they are robbing him of his game, or perhaps no later than the night before, they conveyed it from his manors. It is pretty well known, that there is not a gamekeeper but what will take a bribe, but a gamekeeper's duty is briefly this: To make use of his gun as seldom as possible, except for the purpose of killing vermin; not to have any intercourse with poulterers, coachmen, tavern-keepers, or higlers; to be in the manors at night, in preference to the day; if he meets any gentleman shooting on his grounds, he ought to recollect, not to behave insolently; if he desires them to desist, and they will not, it does not warrant his abusing them; his duty is to speedily inform his employer, and then let the necessary steps the law points out be inflicted on the intruders.

No gamekeeper is authorised, by either his deputation or employer, in shooting any person's dog, except such dog is found, by himself hunting deer, or destroying the game; and he is is not authorised to do so, even then, without first giving notice to the owner of the dog, to keep it away, or have intimation that he means to do so. A very serious business was very near happening, not long since, in *Glocestershise*, in consequence of a gamekeeper, who lived with a certain Earl, shooting the favourite pointer of a military gentleman, of high rank in his profession, and all to be lamented was, that by the officer's firing at the gamekeeper, in return, prevented him from punishing the fellow, who was guilty of so daring an outrage.

The following trial will serve to shew the necessity of gentlemen warning their keepers from committing such outrages; if they are aggrieved, surely the law is open to them.

Atkinson, v. *Kent*, *Hertford Assizes*.

This was an action for shooting the plaintiff's dog. *Mr Garrow* tasted, that the plaintiff, in this case, was a gentleman residing in *London*, and qualified for field sports. The dog which had been killed was a very valuable animal, and worth twenty guineas. It had been sent to a farmer of the name of *Acres*, living near *Broxbourne*, in this county, and one day, the 16th of last April, the animal having gone out with him to a place called *White-stork wood*, while the man was loading his cart, the defendant who was gamekeeper to *Mr. Jacob Bosanquet*, shot the animal while he was *questing* about the fields. In answer to this case it was pleaded first, the general issue; next, that *Mr. Bosanquet* was possessed of a right of *free warren*, in the manor of *Broxbourne*, and that the defendant shot the dog who was chasing the game. He denied that the dog was at all chasing the game, it would *quest* or hunt after a black-bird, and it was a most ill natured act: he did not mean to blame *Mr. Bosanquet*, who defended the action, but his servant, who had done the deed, for he was sure that *Mr. Bosanquet* only defended the action because he thought his servant was entitled to protection until his ill conduct was legaly proved.

I will not here lay down the evidence, as it is too long, but the case was fully proved; as to the defence there was none of any

weight or consequence; after a long trial and a little consideration, it was agreed that a juror should be withdrawn, the defendant undertaking to pay all the costs and five guineas for the dog.

This proves how far a gamekeeper dares presume to take the law in his own hands: It is not to be wondered at, that those fellows take so much upon them, when they are backed and encouraged by their masters. There is a certain person in *Glostershire*, who has a gamekeeper, of a very bad character, who on being told he was a rogue, he replied he knew he was a great one, and if he could only find a greater he would turn him he had off, and take the greater.

Gentlemen who are in the habit of getting on the manors of great *bashaws*, should know how to act. As I have given them the name of *bashaws*, I will asign some reason for it; a noble Earl in the northern parts of *England*, and who was the terror of two whole counties, and as little liked in principle as he was respected, would not allow a single person a days sport on any of his manors, although it is well known, a sportsman might go for sixty miles without getting off his moors. It happened that he once caught a tenant of his shooting, who having some property and being qualified and licenced, gave him some opposition, whereupon he went to his lawyer, to know how much money it would take to ruin the man, and absolutely made the attempt: what a character was this to live in society! and what was more extraordinary, he had not himself been in the habit of shooting for many

years, he died as he lived, respected by none, and to the great joy of the whole country.

If a gentleman comes on the ground of another he may not only be troublesome to the gamekeeper, but also to the owner of the grounds; for example, if a gamekeeper should happen to come up to a gentleman to speak to him, or demand his licence, he should recollect always to have his own about him, (which many forget to have) or he will be forced to return home for it, when the sportsman can make good use of his absence. It is ignorantly supposed by gamekeepers, and indeed by their masters, that either of them can warn a person off their grounds; as to the gamekeeper, he cannot, nor is his warning legal or to be attended to, nor his master's, except he has the grounds in his own hands, the person is then shooting on; no warning is legal from any person but the real occupier or tenant of the ground; but let it be understood, that a *verbal* warning from the occupier of the ground, that is, the tenant of such ground as the sportsman is then on, is legal, and as good in law as a *written* one; and if the tenant gives permission, you need not ask his landlord. All landlords of estates, in making leases, have certain covenants generally reserved to themselves, viz. to hunt, hawk, fish and fowl; now it may be understood, that if they had a sole and exclusive right of the game, after letting their estates, there would be no use for this reservation being inserted in the lease.

A sportsman may be very troublesome also, by taking his licence out in a distant county from where he resides, and intends to

shoot, and there is no clause in the game laws, that obliges any person to either shew his game-licence, or say when he took it out; all that is to be done, is to tell your name; it is possible then, that if the owner of the land wishes to know if you have taken out your licence, that he will probably search the list at the Clerk of the Peace, for the county wherein you reside, and if he does not find your name, will commence a prosecution, when you are sure to cast him. *

The only method to counteract all these, and to be ready for every intruder, will be for the landlord to make all his tenants write the following notice, which should always be in the hands of the gamekeeper, or such people as are employed to protect the game.

To Mr. (name) (date here)

I herby give you notice, that if you hunt, set net, hawk, fish, or fowl, or use any other method to destroy the game, upon any of my lands, manors, or royalties, within (such grounds) I shall deem you a wilful trespasser, and proceed against you as the law directs.

{directed again here to the trespasser.} (Name here)

Several of these notices should be signed, and place for the date and name left open, for the gamekeeper to insert them when

* The words in the act respecting where certificates are to be taken out is very strong, (see certificate under game laws) but then if you go any distance from home, previous to the season, you are not bound to return to take out your certificate.

he gives the warning, when on finding the name of the person, which he will be able to do, either by seeing the certificate, or being told it by the trespasser; he is then to direct it, and to recollect he must have a witness, to the serving of the notice; and in case the certificate of the trespasser, is taken out by him, in any other county but in that he resides, by paying one shilling at the Stamp-office, in *London*, you will be soon enabled to find whether he is licenced or not.

Another method practiced by many intruders is as follows, if the gamekeeper has not notices ready from every tenant, it happens often on many manors, that there are several tenants; and the moment the gamekeepers serves the notice of one tenant, the sportsman will instantly go on the grounds of the next, therefore the necesity of having the notices from every tenant is obvious.

If the gamekeeper has notices signed by each tenant, and afterwards inserts the name of a trespasser, it is deemed a legal warning. In the action of *Saville, v. Potter,* at the *York* spring-assizes, 1803, *Mr. Serjeant Cockel,* on behalf of the defendant, objected that a general power given to a gamekeeper to give discharges, was in law not good

The learned judge over-ruled that objection, at the same time observing, that it would be a thing attended with great inconvenience, and almost impossible to meet every purpose; if a lord of a manor was obliged to give a particular power every time, it was necessary to give a discharge upon an improper infringment of his right.

STEALING DOGS.

An abstract of the Act of Parliament, relative to the Stealing of Dogs, and other laws relative to those animals

IN the first place it is to be remembered, that stealing dogs is not felony; for, however they may be valued by the owner, yet they shall never be so highly regarded by the law, that for the sake of them, man shall die. 1 *Haw.* 93. However dogs, from their great services to man, have become entitled to legal preservation, but not proportional as they are valued or esteemed by many owner's, who would sooner lose two or three horses, or perhaps a score of sheep, than a valuable pointer.

By the 10 G. III. c. 18. If any person shall steal any dog, or

dogs, of any kind or sort whatsoever, from the owner thereof, or from any person intrusted by the owner therewith; or shall buy, or receive, harbour, or detain, or keep any such dog, or dogs, knowing the same to have been stolen; every such person shall, on conviction, upon the oath of one witness, or his, or her own confession, before two justices, forfeit for the first offence, any sum, not exceeding £30. nor less than £20. as to such justices shall seem meet; together with the charges previous to, and attending such conviction, to be ascertained by such justices, before whom the offender shall be convicted; and if not forthwith paid, the said justices shall commit the offender to the common gaol, or house of correction, for any time, not exceeding twelve calendar months, nor less than six, or until the penalty and charges shall be paid; and if any person, having been convicted as aforesaid, shall afterwards be guilty of the like offence, and shall be thereof convicted in like manner, as aforesaid, every such person shall forfeit, not exceeding £50. nor less than £30. as to such justices shall seem meet; together with the charges previous to, and attending such conviction, which said penalties, or any of them, when recovered, shall be paid half to the informer and half to the poor; and upon non-payment thereof, such justices shall commit the offender to the common gaol, or house of correction, for any time not exceeding eighteen months, nor less than twelve, or until the penalty and charges shall be paid; and such justice shall also order the offender to be publicly whipped, within three

days after such commitment, in the town wherein such gaol, or house of correction shall be, between the hours of twelve and one of the clock. S. 1.

And one justice, on information to him made, may grant a warrant, to search for any dog stolen as aforesaid; and in case any such dog, or the skin thereof, shall, upon search, be found, the said justice shall take and restore such dog, or skin, to the owner thereof; and the person in whose custody or possession, such dog, or skin, shall be found, (in case it shall appear that such person was privy to such dog having been stolen, as aforesaid,) shall respectively be subject and liable, to the like penalties and punishments, as persons convicted of stealing any dog, or dogs, are herein before made subject and liable to. S. 2.

Provided that if any person shall think himself or herself aggrieved, by any thing done in pursuance of this act, such person may appeal, to the next general quarter sessions, within four days after the cause of complaint shall arise, such appellant giving fourteen days notice, at least, in writing, of his intention to appeal, and of the matter thereof, to the person whose acts are complained against; and within two days after such notice, entering into a recognizance, before a justice, with two sureties, conditioned to try such appeal, and abide to the order of, and to pay such costs as shall be awarded by the justices at such quarter sessions; and the said justices, at such sessions, on proof of such notice, and recognizance, shall hear and determine the appeal, in a summary

way, and award such costs to the parties appealing, or appealed against, as they shall think proper; and their determination shall be final; and no order, or other proceedings, touching the conviction of any offender against this act, shall be quashed for want of form, or be removed by *certiorari*, or other writ, into any of his Majesty's courts of record, at *Westminster*. S. 4.

Remarks on the foregoing act.

There seems in the preceding pages of this act, entitled an act for the preservation of dog setaling, a great many difficulties upon the face of it; first, with regard to the *offence;* seconly, with respect to the *penalties;* and thirdly, in the clause relative to the *appeal.*

Mr. Burn says, with regard to the offence, *if any person shall steal any dog, or dogs.* It is not a mere cavil, in a case where a man's property or liberty is so considerably affected, to surmise, that it may be doubtful, whether upon this act it is penal to steal a *bitch.* In the case of *horse stealing,* the act runs thus; *any horse, mare, or gelding;* and it is not usual, when a man has stolen a *mare,* to indict him for stealing a horse. And so tender is the law, in these matters, that when, by the 1 Ed. VI. c. 12. it was enacted, that no person, or persons, convicted of stealing horses, mares, or geldings, should be admitted to the benefit of clergy; this was not thought sufficient to exclude from the said benefit, any person who should steal only one horse, mare, or gelding:

But an explanatory act (2 & 3 Ed. VI. c. 33.) was thought necessary for that purpose, and the reason is plain; what a man has a right to (as his life, liberty, or estate) by a clear and undoubted right, shall not be taken from him by a law less clear and certain. And in this very act before us, a distinction of sexes is made throughout, with respect to the *offenders*, (*him, or her, himself, or herself*,) which distinction being not observed, with respect to the *offence*, it may possibly be argued, that in a case so penal, the statute shall not be extended further than the words will strictly bear.

With respect to the *penalties*; as the clause stands, there may be a doubt concerning the application of the forfeitures for the first offence; for though it is said, that the said forfeitures, *or any of them*, shall be paid half to the informer, and half to the poor; yet, in the very next words following, it is said, that on non-payment thereof, the justices shall commit the offender, for any time, not exceeding eighteen months, nor less than twelve, which words are only applicable to the penalty, for a second or other subsequent offence.

In like manner, it seems doubtful, whether the *whipping* shall be understood for the first, or only for a subsequent offence. Also the special *time* of whipping, is not clearly ascertained, being only *between the hours of twelve and one of the clock*; which may be either in the morning, soon after midnight, or in the afternoon,

There is also a small mistake, when it is said, that the charges of conviction shall be ascertained by the *justice*, before whom the offender shall be convicted, whereas the conviction must be by *two* justices.

The clause, concerning the *appeal*, seemeth inconsistent, or otherwise unintelligible. The appeal must be *to the next general quarter sessions, within four days after the cause of complaint shall arise, and of this fourteen days notice shall be given, to the person whose acts are complained against.*

Whatever these words may signify, the imprisonment is still going on; for if the forfeiture is not *forthwith* paid, the offender shall be committed; and at all events, the whipping shall be over before the appeal can commence.

From this the reader will be enabled, by a strict and attentive perusal, to discover with what inaccuracy this statute is worded, and what a field of quibbles may possibly arise from it, leaving room for every lawyer to turn and twist it at his pleasure.

The next thing that ought to occupy our attention is, what is to be offered in respect of dogs straying. Many persons are at a loss to know how to recover a lost dog, after finding him in the possession of another, who, in all probability, had stolen him, but of which there is not sufficient proof, to inflict the punishment due to the crime. It may not therefore be amiss to insert the following case, and then offer a legal opinion on this head.

M. 7. G. III. on an action of trover and conversion for a pointing dog, the plaintiff proved the dog to be his property, and that it was found at the defendant's house, twelve months after it was lost. The defendant said, the dog strayed there casually, and demanded twenty shillings, for twenty weeks keeping, before he would deliver up the dog. A verdict was given to the plaintiff, subject to the opinion of the court, whether this refusal amounted to a conversion of the dog. But the counsel, for the defendant, declined arguing the question, and the plaintiff had judgment. *Black. Rep.* 1117.

It is, I believe, very generally understood, that if a dog strays with the owner's name on the collar, that no person has a right to detain him, except he does so with an intention of preserving him for his master; to whom, as soon as is convenient after, he should give the necessary information.

If a dog strays without a collar, and comes into the habitation of any person, he has no right to detain him; surely he knows the dog does not belong to him. What a number of dog stealers, under a cloak of this nature, steal valuable dogs, and pretend they come into their houses, as stray ones; which are shortly after conveyed to a different part of the kingdom, in order that they may not be found, and are sent to the house of a brother delinquent, who, in all likelihood, when he receives the dog, so far from his own home, goes through the necessary forms to insure, perhaps, a valuable dog to himself.

The method they pursue, in this case, is as follows; they have him cried three times in three different market towns, on three respective market days, and then advertise him in the newspaper of the next county town, in which they pretend the dog was found; giving notice, that such a dog was found on such a day, and if not claimed by such a period, he will be sold to defray the expence of the advertisement, and his keeping. The master, who is perhaps at a very great distance, cannot possibly either see the advertisement, or hear of his dog; therefore, on the day appointed, these dog stealers have such a bill against the dog for his maintenance, and swearing he is not worth one shilling, in order to render him of little or no value, in the eyes of the people, commonly buy him in themselves; this kind of nefarious smuggling has long been carried on to a great extent

Dogs that are mischievous, are also liable to come under the cognizance of the laws respecting dogs.

A *mastiff* going in the street unmuzzled, from the ferocity of his nature, being dangerous and cause of terror to his Majesty's subjects, seemeth to be a common nuisance, and consequently the owner may be indicted for suffering him to go at large.

And in the case of *Smith*, v. *Pelah*, H. 20. G. II. it was ruled, that if a dog had once bit a man, and the owner having notice thereof, keeps the dog, and lets him go about, or lie at his door, an action will lie against him, at the suit of the person bit, though it happened by his treading on the dog's toes; for it was occa-

sioned by his not killing the dog on the first notice, and the safety of the king's subjects, ought not afterwards to be endangered. *Str.* 1264.

But in order to maintain an action for *biting*, by the defendant's dog, it must be proved also that *he knew* his dog to be used to bite; but one instance is sufficient in that case. 12 *Mod.* 555.

If a man has a dog that *kills sheep*, this is not a public nuisance, but the owner of the dog (*knowing thereof*) is liable to an action; but if he is ignorant of such quality, he shall not be punished for this killing: And in an action upon the case for such killing, the plaintiff shall be required to prove in evidence, that the dog had used to kill sheep. *Dyer.* 25. *Het.* 171. And if a man keeps a dog accustomed to bite *sheep*, and he knows it, and notwithstanding he keeps the dog still, and afterwards the dog bites a *horse*; this shall be actionable, although he had been known before to bite sheep only; because the owner, after notice of the first mischief, he ought to have destroyed or hindered him from doing any more hurt. *Ld. Raym.* 110.

DUTY ON DOGS.

NUMBER OF DOGS.	Duties payable by 38 Geo. III. Cap. 41.			Additional duties payable by 42 Geo. III. Cap. 37.			Total charges in one sum, for each.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
For every Greyhound, Pointer, Setting-dog, Spaniel, Lurcher or Terrier, and for every Dog of whatsoever description or denomination the same may be, where any person shall keep two or more Dogs - - - -	0.	6.	0.	0.	4.	0.	0.	10	0.
For any Dog (not being a Greyhound, Hound, Setting-dog, Spaniel, Lurcher, or Terrier,) kept by, or for the use of any person inhabiting a dwelling-house assessed, to any of the duties on houses, windows or lights, or on inhabited houses, where one such Dog, and no more shall be kept by or for the use of such person - - - -	0.	4.	0.	0.	2.	0.	0.	6.	0.

The said duties to be paid by the persons keeping, or for whose use the same shall be kept, and to be subject to the regulations contained in an act of 36. G III, authorising a composition to be made in respect to hounds kept by any person, on payment, yearly, of the sum of thirty-pounds, instead of the sum therein mentioned.

DISEASES INCIDENTAL TO DOGS.

THERE are so many disorders incident to the canine race, and so many cures offered, that it is difficult for a person to determine which to make use of, or to administer to a sick dog. I will be bound to assert, that if different people be called on for a receipt, for a diseased dog, or their advice asked, they will not only all differ in their opinions respecting the disorder, but each will advise a different cure.

There is no disorder that has become more general and destructive, than that known by the name of the *Distemper*. It is the bane of every sportsman: What a number of valuable dogs have been lost since this plague has been known in this country.

This, and the canine madness, are the scourge of all the dog kind; when the *Distemper* appears, there is scarcely a person but who has a receipt for the cure of it, and is partial to his own private remedies and treatment.

The only person that has yet thrown any light on this subject, is *Dr. Blaine*, who certainly has taken a vast deal of pains, but I believe he is as far from ascertaining from whence it arises, and as unable to discover the original cause of the disease, as ever certain it is that he has made several experiments, and they have been attended with great success; his medicines have certainly cured several dogs, and are strongly recommended by many, who have witnessed their good effects. The Compiler has himself recovered a number of dogs in the Distemper, with *Blaine's* medicines.

It will not be amiss to take a view, of what he quotes, respecting this disease; which, in his description of its commencement and progress is so exactly described.

"Dogs of every description (says *Mr. Blaine,)* seem liable to the Distemper, and this tendency takes place usually, between the ages of six and twelve months. It may, in a few instances appear sooner, but is seldom prolonged later."

"It arises in some cases without any apparent cause, but the existing predispositon, called forth into immediate action, by some agent unknown to us; that is, it appears to be generated within the animal: In other instances it is occasioned by infection from immediate contact with a disordered dog, or perhaps im-

bibed through the medium of the air. But it does not follow that every healthy dog in contact with a distempered one, shall take the disease, on the contrary, they sometimes escape at that time; but such is the constitutional predisposition, that few young dogs escape it altogether."

The symptoms of the Distemper, are by no means always similar; nevertheless there are predominant ones, that almost always occur. It generally makes its appearance, in a dry husky cough, dulness and want of appetite, but which does not always attend it at first; a running from the nose and eyes is one of its first, and most characteristic symptoms. Sometimes the running from the nose, precedes that from the eyes, and both are at first more thin and watery, gradually becoming thicker; either viscid, and gluey, or with the true character of pus or matter.

As the disease advances, the dog appears much emaciated, and grows excessively weak, particularly in the loins and hinder extremities; with dimness of sight, accompanied sometimes with convulsive twitchings of different parts of the body.

When it arrives at its full violence, the twitchings degenerate into strong fits, foaming at the mouth, running round, and expressing great pain, with a constant tenesmus, or disposition to go to stool; accompanied with obstinate costiveness in some instances, and with incessant purgings in others.

There is likewise, in some of these cases, a great irritability of

the stomach, every thing being thrown up immediately it is taken in; and the animal generally dies in one of these spasmodic fits, or is destroyed as being suppossed to be mad.

When the disease arrives at this stage, or height, it is generally fatal; and when the convulsive fits have appeared, the recovery, it is to be observed, is even more hopeless; nevertheless when treated with great attention and care, dogs have been known to be restored, though under all these appearances; he further assures us, that there is no stage of the disease in which he has not seen dogs recovered, by means of the remedy he has given us: But he adds, under these circumstances, other collateral aid is necessary; that is, the animal must experience the most active and judicious management, to save him from death, which in many instances may be attended with success.

During every stage of the complaint, the prostration of strength is a very distinguishing feature in it; but when it proves violent, the weakness becomes excessive, and is more than one would have reason to expect from other symptoms; appearing to be of a particular kind, and not altogether dependant on the simple internal derangement, occasioned by the disease, but having a character of its own.

Mr. Blaine further states, that this is proved, by cases which came immediately under his own eye; wherein he has perceived, the debility to have been such, that a dog could with difficulty stand; but in three or four hours, from the removal of the com-

plaint, by means of his medicine, the dog has even run about with strength and vigour.

In some instances, the weakness appears particularly combined with a nervous affection, which shew itself, at first, by starts and spasmodic catches, of various parts of the body, particularly of the head, and which continues, in some cases, several months, and then gradually disappear; in others, it remain as long as the animal lives.

Mr. Blaine says, it is not to be supposed that strength will immediately return where there is great emaciation, but that the weakness and emaciation bear no proportion to each other, as they do in other cases; he assures us he saw a spaniel that reeled and fell on every attempt to move in the morning, walk and even run in the evening, from having the disease removed through the means of his medicine.

This disease exhibits very different degrees of violence. In some subjects it occasions nothing but a slight leanness, with a glutinous moisture from the nose and eyes, and spasmodic twitches; in others it appears very violent, attended with a train of the most dangerous and distressing symptoms; he has sometimes thought it more violent when produced by infection, than where generated, but of this he would not be posisitive; and he has thought that he has observed the strength of the disease, in some degree proportionate to the violence of the same in the animal from whom it was caught: But he does not mean to offer these as established positions.

This disease always appears more violent and is more fatal to dogs, that are, as it is termed, high bred, which appears to be nothing more than the crossing their breeds; till the irritability and susceptibility of the animal, to outward impressions, is wound up to the highest pitch, by choosing only such parents as exhibit this in the strongest degree.

If this is the case, we have no reason to be surprised, that they should be more obnoxious to disease, than others less highly bred. It is likewise very fatal among all the various lap dogs, which may be easily accounted for, by considering the life of art they lead.

Though this disease is very prevalent in other countries, yet their inabitants appear to understand it less than ourselves; perhaps it maybe owing to their not being so fond of field sports, that the dog is less regarded. In *Holland*, they appear not at all conversant with it; when *Mr. Blaine* was there, he was not able to find that they had even a name for it. In *America* they lament its fatality, but follow no regular plan for its cure.

The Distemper is very often taken for madness, other complaints are likewise not unfrequently considered as Distemper; as fits, and a species of asthma, which dogs are subject to, called the husk; but being mistaking for the hydrophobia, it is often attended with very distressing consequences, for either a poor animal is abandoned to his fate or unrelentingly killed.

Mr. Blaine mentions his often having been a witness to some

shocking scenes of this description, (which I also will venture to say, so have many of my readers) when a harmless, and suffering sick animal, has been confined in a cold cellar, or coal-hole, or chained to a post in some exposed out-house, fear preventing any care being bestowed on him, and has died more a victim to undesigned cruelty, than to the disease.

Others are at once dispatched, where recovery might be safely promised. But one of the most unpleasent consequences, arising from this error, is the dread, timid persons (sometimes for a month afterwards) labour under; when an animal thus supposed mad, has been either killed or has died, and when by their attendance on him, they have fancied themselves in danger.

But this dread might be always evaded by attending to some very definite distinctions, early drawn between these two diseases; madness does not often attack puppies; Distemper is almost perhaps intirely confined to dogs before or just compleating their growth. Madness usually begins by a sullen moroseness, a shunning of every body, even the person the animial is most attached to: nor is there in this early stage often any running from the nose or eyes, which forms the first appearance in the other disease.

In Distemper, though the animal may be weak and languid, yet he has never any of that sullen shyness about him; he is equally affectionate to those he knows, as at other times; and this should be particularly attended to, as forming a very distinguishing mark between these two complaints.

It is very seldom that the Distemper proceeds so rapidly, as to destroy in three or four days, though now and then it happens; but hydrophobia is very rapid in its attack, and usually proves fatal in a few days. There is not any cough in madness, but it is seldom absent in the Distemper. With regard to the aversion of water so generally insisted upon, it some times leads into error, for now and then mad dogs do not appear to feel any great dread of it, however they will seldom voluntarily drink, when the disease is arived at any height.

In the Distemper sometimes the throat is sore and the animal then refuses to take liquids; but he shews no aversion to them, at any other period, and always readily smells to whatever is put before him. As madness advances in an affected dog, he entirely loses his senses, and has a fiery wild eye, that is never seen in the Distemper; and shews a disposition to bite every person about him, and this without any distinction of persons; flying at those he was most attached to, as readily as any others. If he escapes, he runs incessantly, with eager and savage fury, attacking every thing he meets, until exhausted, he yields to his fate.

There are many different subjects of attack in this disease, some have it very slightly, others more violent. When dogs are mad they generaly leave their abode, as the disorder arrives at its height; but in the Distemper dogs never do.

In the Distemper it is entirely different, except when immediately in a convulsive fit: There is no loss of sense, or recol-

lection, but the animal is perfectly acquainted with those around him, and never shews any disposition to bite. If, therefore, a puppy will drink, when out of the immediate effect of the spasmodic constriction; or will bear the sight of water, without evident fear; but more particularly, when his weakness is excessive, and strongly apparent between the intervals of the fits; and he has no sullenness, or vice, in his manner; nor any redness, or wildness in his eyes; it may be safely concluded it is the Distemper, and not madness.

These circumstances should be carefully attended to, as they are nearly unerring, and may save numerous, valuable, and unhappy animals from destruction, and many a timid mind from dread.

There is a species of fits, with which the Distemper is sometimes confounded; but these fits usually appear suddenly, from some great exertion, when the weather is very hot; and in such cases, as soon as the immediate attack is over, the dog appears perfectly well, exhibiting no running at the nose, or eyes, nor having any cough.

At times, dogs have a species of severer fits, having an epileptic form; and which, from their frequent recurrence, usually prove fatal. But they, as readily as the others, are distinguished from the Distemper, by having none of the other symptoms.

The husk is a kind of asthma dogs are subject to, but it is frequent only in older dogs, and when it appears in younger sub-

jects, may be characterised by the particular sound of the cough; by being unaccompanied with running, either from the nose or eyes, and attended with little general affection of the health.

Amidst all these investigations, what the real nature of the complaint is, it must be evident it is not easy to conclude; nor from these premises, would the consequent treatment be much plainer.

From what has been laid down from *Mr. Blaine,* concerning the Distemper, we may conclude, by a little care and observation, every person will be able to distinguish a distempered dog from one that is going mad.

Mr. Blaine is certainly not able to account from whence this disease originates; he assures us, he made several experiments before he found out a cure for it, and that it was a mere chance he happened to succeed. His medicine is a valuable one certainly, and will cure, if people will only have patience with it; as he remarks, some people only give one paper of his medicine, and if that does not immediately relieve, it is unjustly condemned, and no further trial allowed; when the Compiler can assure his readers, it has produced the most wonderful recoveries.

I can safely assure my readers, I have known many dogs that never had the Distemper, and dogs of eighteen months old that have had it. I believe it may be safely asserted, that there has never been known an instance, of a dog having the Distemper twice.

It would be a piece of injustice to my readers, as well as to *Mr. Blaine*, were I not to lay before them the directions he has laid down, for those who purchase his valuable medicine, and I have only to enjoin patience, care, and attention, in the administration of it.

He begins, by assuring us of its innocent qualities, and though perfectly devoid of any noxious taste, it must not be supposed to be less efficacious; nor must those who are advocates for strong remedies imagine, that because its effects are not the shaking the whole constitution, that thereby the disease is not eradicated. It does not often produce any sensible effect, but that of lessening the symptoms, which it commonly does, within an hour or two after it is given. Sometimes it's effects are immediate, and the disease totally disappears at once; at others, it is not so rapid in its effects, but the symptoms disappear more gradually, but effectually.

From want of an acquaintance with the disease, he has known persons to have given the medicine when the disease had been in the last stage, and fits have followed, who have been weak enough to consider the fits as the effect of the powder, but this never can be the case; and when they come on after the medicine has been administered, it is only because it has been too long delayed, and the constitution too far gone to admit of renovation; and thus, these fits, which are the usual attendants on the complaint, when it is fatal, come on either with, or without the medicine.

But it must ever be remembered, that dogs under disease, are very tender animals, and that this, particularly, is a disease of great weakness, therefore every possible care is requisite; and that of course, it cannot be expected that the most efficacious remedy can be effectual, without other proper care.

Mr. Blaine assures us, that he has known dogs in the Distemper confined in a cellar, cold stable, or cow-house, &c. &c. with water before them, and perhaps a few bones, or some other food perfectly improper for a sick dog; to such a one, the medicinal powder has been given without any other attention, and if it has not been found to remove the disease, the medicine has been supposed inert and useless.

It is true that when the symptoms are slight and mild, that simply giving this remedy usually removes the disease, and no other cure is requisite then to see it fairly taken. But if the complaint is more violent, and has been suffered to proceed to a considerable length, and the dog is become weak and emaciated, especially if it is a high bred or tender dog, it is self-evident, that something more is required, than simply giving a medicine, and then turning the animal to its fate. On the contrary, the utmost care is required; and, unless as much is bestowed as there would be to a sick child, the owner may rest assured, he will lose his dog, even with all the medicines in the world.

In the administration of every medicine, a proper attention to circumstances is necessary, that the proper time, and most fa-

vourable form are chosen. A remedy must not be simply swallowed, but must be retained on the stomach, and every advantage caught at. It is the same with this, though it never can hurt; yet, from want of a little caution, it may fail; but when given with propriety, *Mr. Blaine* will, in every fair case, be answerable for its certainty and success.

It has been observed, that when this disease is severe, there is frequently so great a degree of irritability in the stomach, that every thing taken, is immediately thrown up. Previous to the giving of the medicine, this should be alleviated, or overcome, or it would, by being returned, be wasted, and its trial an unfair one.

In such cases, therefore, the powder should be carefully mixed, with a small piece of butter, at the same time adding to it, thirty, forty, or fifty drops of laudanum, according to the age, size, and strength of the dog; taking care that he is watched, and kept as still as possible afterwards. But if, notwithstanding this, it should be thrown up, then the same quantity of laudanum ought to be given alone, two hours after, in a little broth, or milk; and the powder in a paste of treacle, honey, or flour, half-an-hour after that, by which means it will be retained. But should there be at the same time, obstinate costiveness, it is more than probable, that the sickness may be the consequence of it, and must be removed before it will cease.

A small dose of aloes, calomel, or other opening substance; for a large dog, as much as will purge a man; and for a small one, what would be required for a child; may be made into a ball, with a few drops of laudanum, if the sickness is great; or, two table spoonfuls of castor oil, may, if more convenient, be used. But if these are thrown up, or cannot be conveniently procured, a clyster, with milk, salt, and oil, will generally remove it; which when effected, the remedy for the Distemper should be given, if there has been great sickness with the laudanum, if not, without it; and it should be remembered that, when it can be done, the clyster is the best opening remedy of the whole.

When, likewise, excessive purging occompanies the complaint, the laudanum should not be neglected; for if it runs off rapidly by stool, the effect of the medicine is equally lost, as if it was vomited up. In this case, thirty or forty drops of laudanum may be given in any thing, previous to the powder,

Indeed, in every instance, it will be right to attempt removing the sickness, purging, or costiveness, before the powder is given; as its effects will then be more certain.

He states and requests, a necessary attention to the state of the bowels, in this complaint; as obstinate costiveness, or incessant purging, so frequently prove its most fatal symptoms.

The purging will commonly give way to the powder given internally, or if very troublesome a milk clyster may be used;

but the costiveness is very hard to remove, yet without it, no dog can recover, and mild means must be persevered in, until the effect is produced. Castor oil is one of the best remedies, but the very best is a clyster, which is perfectly easy and convenient to give, though at first sight it may appear formidable. The composition may be salt, sugar, and gruel.

Through the whole complaint, it is essentially necessary, that the animal should be kept warm. Stone-pavement, or brick-floors, are very improper for sick dogs; they should have a proper bed, and in the winter be kept in a room with a fire. It is equally necessary that they have constant support, not only in the form of food, but in that of medicine. Strong broth will be found very grateful; and when the animal is very weak, it is useful to give it likewise clysters, and also to combine with the medicinal powder, bark and red wine, which *Mr. Blaine* has found attended with the happiest effects.

The powder should be always mixed with any thing the animal will eat; if averse to eating, it should be made into a small ball, with butter, honey, treacle, or paste, and forced down; it matters not how, or in what it is taken, provided the dog takes the whole.

If the powder is mixed with any liquid, its weight will carry it to the bottom; and it will, by this means, be lost. It should likewise be given on an empty stomach, or its effects may be lessened, or destroyed; when given, the animal must be watched.

When there is the least reason to suppose it was not all taken, or was thrown up, or that any symptoms appear to remain, a second dose should by no means be neglected. The symptoms usually remove, without any particular appearance, and so quickly, that when the medicine is given, there is often no remains of the disease two hours afterwards.

As the varieties in the sizes, and consequent strength of dogs, render a difference in the quantity of medicine necessary, these powders are put up in packets, of different quantities, and marked No. 1, 2, and 3. Therefore, when required for a mastiff, pointer, setter, or dog of a large size, No. 1, should be given; for hounds, spaniels, and those of a middling size, No. 2; and for all lesser dogs, No. 3.

None of these are genuine, but such as are signed by the proprietor, with his name, *(D. Blaine,)* all the rest are counterfeits. Price one shilling and sixpence each packet, or six packets for eight shillings; and is to be had of all the reputed medicine venders in the united kingdoms.

The next thing the Compiler recommends, in this disease, is to have the animal kept, not only very clean, but his nose should be washed out twice or three times a day, with a sponge and warm milk and water; the running, sometimes, that comes from the nose, is so virulent, that it takes all the skin off, and makes the nose dreadfully sore; besides the animal licks off the running with his tongue, which is hurtful.

Mr. Beckford mentions a remedy for the Distemper, communicated to him by a friend, whose hounds had found great benefit from it; this was, an ounce of Peruvian bark, in a glass of port wine, taken twice a day.

The following Receipts have also often been used with great success.

A large table spoonful of Norris's drops, in the same quantity of port wine, will be found to cure, in many instances.

One grain and a half of calomel, and five grains of rhubarb, to be repeated every other day.

Four grains of Turbith's mineral, and one grain of tartar emetic, first bleeding the dog.

A tea spoonful of julap, half the quantity of grated ginger, and a table spoonful of syrup of buckthorn, made into a ball, or given in a liquid, in warm water; no milk, but water-gruel to drink, and the dog must be kept very warm.

Gamboge, dragon's blood, and Jesuist's bark, of each half an ounce, made into pills; the size of an hazel nut to a full grown dog, one to be given every day warm until cured; to a whelp, three times a week.

I shall conclude on the Distemper, by first laying before my readers, a method that I have succeeded in, in almost every trial; and a few trials, by those who will take the trouble to make the experiment, will sufficiently assure them of its efficacy.

The Compiler could get letters, in numbers, and the testimony of many persons, whose dogs have been saved by this method, but does not wish to take up the readers time.

The method alluded to is inoculation, and the following plan has succeeded so well, particularly in one instance, that it saved a whole belly of fine puppies; it has been tried by many others, who have equally succeeded, and seemed quite charmed with the mode. The Compiler has himself spoken with different medical men, who seem to think, the infection may be less violent by inoculation; but it must be understood that he does not mean the inoculation of the cow-pox, for after many and various trials of this mode of inoculation, it is found not to answer, and puppies, thus inoculated, have had the Distemper afterwards, and always more violently, it has been remarked, than as if they had not been inoculated.

If you can find a dog that has the Distemper favorably, it would be highly proper to put him among those you would wish to have it; for it is a weight of magnitude on the mind of every sportsman that his dogs should have the Distemper before he sends them out to nurse, as half the puppies die through the ignorance of their masters and want of that proper treatment so necessary to them in this disease: How many fine high-bred, valuable dogs, after being broke in and brought home, and perhaps having cost a serious sum of money for their education and keeping, have fallen victims and sacrafices, to this pestilence; would it not therefore be better to save that expence, trouble, and anxiety, by causing them to take it, and ascertain their fate, before money should be expended, thrown away, and no return made. The placing an infected puppy amongst those you wish to give it to, has often been attended with success, for the infection is almost always taken; but there are circumstances that have come under the eye of the Compiler, where an infected puppy has been turned in amongst five, when three has taken it, and had it as favourably as the puppy that was put into them, but the other two did not take it until a long time after, and died of it; therefore when the dogs do not take it, it will be proper to resort immediately to inoculation, by taking some of the contagious mucus from the nostrils and placing it with a rowel either in his neck or through his lip, at the same time rubbing part of it on his nose, and putting some of it with a feather up his nostrils.

But it must be observed, that prior to either inoculation or putting a diseased dog amongst others, it will be necessary to prepare them for it; they must be bled, and physiced; after they are bled, the dog should in a day or two be given a dose of castor oil, two large table spoonfuls will be sufficient for a dose; he should have all the hair cut and shaved off from his nose, up between his eyes, and back to the bottom of his neck; a little of the strong mercurial ointment should be rubbed well in, once in the day, on the shaved part; and if the dog has the Distemper bad and the symptoms are not favourable, it should be rubbed in every other day, giving him some of Dr. James's powders, one of the half-a-crown packets dived into three doses, one dose of which should be given mixed up with kitchen stuff, but it must be well mixed; the dog should have plenty of warm broth after, which if you do not find that it causes vomiting or purging, you must give him, at the expiration of three hours, another third part, and so on, until it takes effect; but if the first operates the rest should not be given, until four or six hours afterwards; however, you must be entirely regulated by the operation of the dose, or the quality of the evacuations; after which, and the dog is sufficiently physiced, you should feed him rather moderately, with animal food well boiled, but not on any account to let him have a bone. If you cannot get Dr. James's powders, you may force such a quantity of bay salt down his throat, until you cause him to vomit; this is a most excellent remedy, but should be administered on the first appearance of the Distemper.

Dog madness is a distemper very common among all sorts of dogs. The Compiler does not think it necessary to take up his readers time, by proceeding into all its stages and cures, for it must strike every person, who has any regard for his other dogs, or fellow-creatures, that any dog which has proved mad, the shortest and safest cure must be to destroy him, for as to curing a dog that has once gone mad, it is out of the power or skill of either man or medicine; although many assertions of cures have been advanced, and instances recorded, where a dog, raving mad, has bit a horse and a man, and the dog and horse have both died raving mad, and the man has recovered, through the means of medical assistance, yet, in the Compiler's mind, the man had not received the saliva or infection, so thoroughly, as to produce the degree the horse and dog experienced.

I shall now proceed to shew how madness is occasioned, and what are its first symptoms.

It proceeds from high feeding, want of exercise, fulness of blood, and costiveness: As for the two first, you must observe, that when you hunt dogs, that they should be better fed than when they rest; and let them be neither too fat nor too lean, but of the two, rather fat than lean; by which means, they will not only be preserved from madness, but also from the mange and scab, which diseases they will be subject to, for want of air, water, or exercise; but if you know how to keep them, as they

should be, in a proper state, they will continue sound, and give you not only more work, but live and last longer than dogs that get diseased from want of care, or a neglect to their food and keeping. They should always have a free access to water, and where it cannot be had in a running stream, it should be changed every morning, allotting a particular time for the change, so as not to forget it; the exercise and diet must be at your own discretion, and in such portions, as you think necessary and conducive to their health: You should frequently give them sulphur in butter, sweet oil, or castor oil; in hot weather, they should be bled under the tongue, behind the ears, or in the plate vein.

There are seven sorts of madness in dogs, two of which, it is allowed, cannot be cured, which is the hot burning madness, and the running madness; these two sorts are so excessive, as shortly to deprive the animal of life.

The symptoms of madness in a dog are as follows: At first he looks dull, shews a dislike to his food and company, particularly to those he has been the most attached to; he does not bark as usual but seems to murmur; is peevish and apt to bite; his ears and tail droop more than usual, and he appears heavy and dull, with an inclination to sleep; and as he advances in the disease he lolls out his tongue, and froths at the mouth: His eyes are heavy and have a running, and the last symptom is, his leaving his home, when he sets out full speed, snapping at every

thing that comes in his way, always going a head, and it is remarked, that seldom a mad dog turns even out of the road; and it is asserted by many people as a fact, that if a mad dog is perceived approaching you, all you have to do is to turn out of his way, and he will not follow you.

The Compiler will now lay before his readers, the five kinds of madness supposed to admit of cure, and will also give all the receipts that can possibly be collected to remove the disorders, but will forbear stating these receipts, or laying down any kind of cure, that is necessary for persons who are bit by mad dogs; as entering into any discussion on that topic, would not only be an infringement on the Faculty, but indicate a presumption, by attempting a subject he is not acquainted with, as every person who writes on any one, should be.

Sleeping madness is so called from the dogs great drowsiness, and almost continual sleeping; this is caused by the little worms that breed in the mouth of the stomach, from corrupt humours, vapours and fumes which ascend to the head; for cure of which take six ounces of the juice of worm-wood, two ounces of the powder of hartshorn burnt, and two drachms of agaric, mix all these together in a little white wine, and give it to the dog to drink in a drenching-horn.

Dumb madness lies also in the blood, and causes the dog not to feed, but to hold his mouth always wide open, frequently putting his feet to his mouth, as if he had a bone in his throat: To

cure this, take the juice of black hellebore, the juice of spatula-patrida, and of rue, of each four ounces; strain them well, and put therein two drachms of unprepared scammony, which being mixed well together, put it down the dog's throat, with a drenching-horn, keeping his head up for some time, least he cast it out again; then bleed him in the mouth, by cutting two or three veins in the gums.

Lank madness is so called, by reason of the dog's leanness, and pining away; for the cure give him a purge as before directed, and also bleed him: It is asserted by many people that there is not a cure for this species of madness.

Rhuematic madness, or slavering madness, occasion the dog's head to swell, his eyes to look yellow, and he is always slavering, and drivelling at his mouth: To cure this kind of madness, take four ounces of the powder of the roots of hollibody of the oak; six ounces of the juice of fennel roots, with the like quantity of the roots of missletoe, and four ounces of the juice of ivy; boil all these together in white wine, and give it to the dog as hot as he can take it.

Falling madness is so called, because it lies in the dog's head, and causing him to reel as he goes, and sometimes to fall down: the cure for this is, five ounces of the juice of briony, and the same quantity of the juice of peony, with four drachms of stavesacre pulverised; mix them together and give it to the dog. Bleed him in the ears and in the two veins that come down his shoulders.

In every kind of madness, and in every stage of it, bleeding is of service : Eight drachms of the juice of an herb called hartshorn, or dog's-tooth, given to a dog, we are assured cures him of any kind of madness.

Another method recommended, for dogs that are bit by mad dogs, is as follows ; take a large barrel or tub, full of water, as cold as possible, into which put two bushels of soot, which you will observe must be well mixed, and then bathe the dog twenty or thirty times in it. The Compiler does not himself conceive there can be the smallest advantage derived from such experiments ; sea bathing is also recommended. To a person who has been bitten by a mad dog, some people insist that if he gets the mad dog's liver, and eats part of it, it will certainly cure him, but such cures must strike every one as being ridiculous.

The following well authenticated fact, respecting a person who was bitten by a mad dog, may be relied upon.

A dog boy, who lived for many years with a friend of the Compiler's, was bit by a dog that was mad, but which seemed not to be effected with a very virulent, or violent sort of madness. In four years afterwards, the boy was seized with fits, which lasted each time for four, or five minutes, and which always ended with his barking like a dog ; he was always seized suddenly, and when he commenced barking, was perfectly in his senses ; some days he was without fits, and at some periods had them oftener than at others ; he never shewed the smallest incli-

nation to bite, or to do an injury. He is at present alive, and after trying ever cure that man could suggest, remains in the same state.

The Compiler thinks it incumbent on him, to point out such receipts as he thinks might be of assistance, in curing the hydrophobia, and which he is assured has been effected by the following.

Mr. Figg's medicine, by which, he positively asserts, he was several times cured of the bite of a mad dog.

Take a pound of salt, put it into a quart of spring water, wash, bathe, and squeeze the wound for an hour; then bind a little salt upon it, and keep it on for twelve hours; but it will not have the smallest effect, if the above is not directly resorted to.

Doctor Mead's powder and method, which he also asserts will cure the bite of a mad dog.

The patient is immediately to be bled in the arm, and to lose from nine to ten ounces of blood. Then take of the herb (called in Latin) *lichen sinerius terrestris,* (in English) ash-coloured ground liver-wort, cleaned, dried, and powdered, two drachms.

Mix these well together, and divide the powder into four doses, one of which must be taken every morning fasting, for four mornings successively, in half-a-pint of cow's milk, warm; after

these four doses are taken, the patient must go into the cold bath, cold spring, or river, every morning fasting, for a month; he must be dipped all over, (except his head), but not stay in longer than half-a-minute, if the water should be very cold; after this, he must go in three times a week, for a fortnight longer.

THE MANGE.

THIS disease is too-well known, to attempt to enter into the exact circumstances that occasion it. It always proceeds for want of proper care, the want of fresh water, dirty kennels, and such like inattentions. Nothing can be so disgraceful to a well-bred sportsman, as to see his dogs all over mangy, and in wretched condition; neglect of this kind is, of course, the occasion of the mange creeping among dogs, and getting to such a stage and head, that it is almost impossible to eradicate the disease compleately; and the infection is spread through all the pointers and setters in his possession, as well as taken by every every dog which comes in contact with any of the diseased ones. There

are, however, certainly two sorts or kinds of mange, one is called the common mange, the other the red mange; the latter is not so infectious as the common mange, although much more difficult to cure, and a longer time is required to perform it. The symptoms of the red mange, in the earliest stage, may easily be discerned from the other; the total loss of hair, in a shorter time, than in the common mange, also a reddish appearance, as if the dogs had been scalded, is one of its characteristic features; and what is most remarkable, when you think the disease is totally cured and subdued, it frequently again makes its appearance. Cleanliness and proper attention, are certainly conducive to the health of all dogs, and if paid to them, will seldom require or put any person to the unpleasant and disagreeable trouble of applying to them, frequent applications of vicious externals. When dogs have either kind of mange, in the smallest degree, it not only prevents their being in condition, but in some measure deprives them of their olfactory powers; therefore, all sportsmen will see, how necessary it is that a proper care should be bestowed on their dogs, and should recollect not to omit, on any account, paying them the strictest attention, on the first or slightest appearance of this disorder.*

* For cures, see receipts.

RECEIPTS.

For the mange.

GIVE your dog flour of brimstone, and fresh butter, and wash him with a liquid made of human wine, a gallon boiled half an hour, with a pound of tobacco stalks boiled in it; the butter and brimstone must be given every morning fasting, and the outward application immediately after. You must muzzle the dog, for if he happens to lick himself, it will certainly cause his death.

Another.

Half a pint of white wine, half a pint of spirits of turpentine, two ounces of nitre, in powder, and one quart of strong beer, to be well mixed, and to be well rubbed in, all over the dog, before a good fire, taking care of his eyes, and putting him afterwards in a warm place, with clean straw.

Another.

Two handfuls of wild cresses, and as much elecampane, and also of the leaves and roots of roerb and sorrel, and two pounds of the roots of fodrels; boil all these well together in lees and vinegar, strain the decoction, and put into it two pounds of grey soap; and when it is melted, rub the dog with it four or five days successively, and it will certainly cure him.

Another.

Stone brimstone powdered fine, either in milk, or mixed up with butter; to be well rubbed every day for a week, with an ointment made of some of the brimstone and pork lard, to which add a small quantity of the oil of turpentine.

Another.

Boil four ounces of quicksilver in two quarts of water, to half the quantity; bathe the dog every day with this water, and let him have some of it to lick, till the cure be perfected. Trooper's ointment rubbed on the parts, on its first appearance, will cure it. This last is an excellent remedy to free lowsy puppies from their lice.

Another.

Two ounces of white hellebore, one ounce of train oil, one ounce of sulphur, one ounce of gunpowder, mixed together in

two quarts of the grounds of porter, or strong beer; anoint the dog all over, before a good fire, and rub it well in, until it is dry; don't let it touch hiseyes on any account; he must not be allowed water for some hours after rubbing.

For the red mange.

Four ounces of quicksilver, two ounces of Venice turpentine, and a pound of hog's lard: The quicksilver and turpentine to be well incorporated, until all the globules disappear; an ounce to be rubbed on the dog every day, for three days successively, especially as soon as the redness appears, and on those parts that seem to have it the most. This recipe will cure the disease let it be ever so violent.

For a dog that has been wounded with shot.

Oil of turpentine, oil of camomile, and aqua vitæ, of each two ounces, mixed well together, with half a pint of linseed oil.

For the same.

Fresh goose grease, melted and strained through a sieve; spirits of wine and turpentine, of each an equal quantity, melted, strained clear and fine: The parts to be well anointed.

To dry up a bitch's milk.

Goose grease and rum, of each an equal quantity; anoint the teats well.

For the same.

Warm vinegar and brandy is the best.

For a dog that is seized with fits in the field.

Bleed him, and take a piece of the stern off, rubbing him well with rough wood, or a large flat stone.

To cure a dog that has convulsions.

A dog attacked with convulsions, first staggers and then falls, fluttering his legs very violently, and his tongue hangs out of his mouth. The moment you perceive these symptoms, dip his nose and tongue directly in cold water, and it will revive him; and if he should be attacked with a second fit, which is generally the case, as soon as you find him recovered, give him as much cold water as he will drink, which will save the trouble of bleeding him in the tail.

For a megrim in dogs.

Open the vein under his tail, and he will recover immediately.

For a canker or formicæ, in the ear of dogs.

Boil two ounces of the best shag tobacco, in a quart of water, until one part is consumed; dip the dog's ears, as it is boiling hot, into the tobacco water, until they are covered two inches above the cankered part; repeat it three successive days.

Another for the same.

One ounce of strong mercurial ointment, and half an ounce of hogs lard, mixed together, and rubbed in well every third day, first washing the ears with soft soap and warm water, as hot as the dog can bear it.

Another.

Infuse four ounces of gum tragacanth in the strongest vinegar, which ought to lie for one week; after that you must grind it, as painters do their colours, on a marble stone, adding roach allum, and galls reduced to powder, of each two ounces; mix all these together, and lay them on the part effected.

For sore ears.

If the ears of a dog be only scabby, anoint them with oil of bitter almonds, and it will soon heal them; but if they are sore

within, then mix with the above, tar and hogs lard, and it will make a perfect cure.

For dogs that strip in the feet, or are sore footed.

Take styptic tincture, and wash all the feet well over: This remedy will be found to surpass all as yet discovered, as it not only extracts the thorns, but if the dog is badly stripped in the feet, this will enable him to hunt next morning.

Another.

Salt-broth, beef-pickle, salt and water, stale urine, are also very good; kitchen-stuff or dripping also; but the dogs cleansing it, by licking it, is better than any, (the styptic tincture excepted); and in washing his feet with the styptic, if you rub a little beef-dripping first, it will cause the dog to lick his feet, and then the styptic will have the best effect.

Another.

Wash the dogs feet with warm allum-water, taking care that the sand is out; and an hour afterwards wash them with warm beer and butter.

N. B. This last receipt is a capital one to harden their feet also.

For bites of other dogs, or sprains.

Rub the parts over with Friar's balsam, oil of organum, and soap linament; the bites to be well anointed, and the sprained parts well rubbed.

For to destroy fleas, ticks, or lice in dogs.

Rub the dog over with sweet oil, or four ounces of tobacco steeped in three quarts of water, and to be well rubbed in before a fire. Common soap and warm water made into a strong lather on the dog, and left on him for a day, will be sure to kill any or either of these vermin, and they will be seen dead the moment the soap touches them.

Another.

Take cummin-seed powdered, and some hellebore, and mix them together in water, and wash your dog with it; or the juice of cucumbers, if the above cannot be had; and anoint him well over with the lees of old dregs of oil of olives.

Another.

Wash your dog well in water wherein lime has been slacked, and some wormwood and corduoe boiled with it, and anoint him with goose grease and soap.

Balls to be given a few weeks before the shooting season, and when dressing is required.

One pound of antimony, four ounces of sulphur, and syrup of buckthorn a sufficient quantity to give it a proper consistence; to be divided into balls, each ball to weigh seven drachms.

To bring hair upon a scalded part, or to make the hair grow.

Take a large piece of leather and burn it well, until it is almost a powder; then take a large piece of butter and brown them well together, and when cool anoint the part effected.

Another.

Bathe him in the water of lupines and hops, and anoint him with stale and barrow-stick. This ointment, besides the cure, will kill the fleas, the disquieters of dogs and enemies to their ease.

To make a dog fine in his coat.

Brush him well all over with chalk, and give him two large table spoonfuls of the syrup of buckthorn in his mess, twice a week, for a fortnight.

Another.

One pound of native sulphur, one quart of train oil, one pint of oil of turpentine, two pounds of soft soap. This to be well rubbed over him four or five times in the space of the summer.

To cure the bites and stings of venemous creatures.

If dogs, are bitten by any venemous creatures, as vipers, &c. squeeze out the blood, and wash the place with salt and urine; then lay a plaister to it, made of calamint, pounded in a mortar, with turpentine and yellow wax, until it comes to a salve. If you give your dog some juice of calamint to drink in milk, it will be of service, or an ounce of treacle dissolved in some sweet wine.

To cure a dog when he has been bit by a mad dog or a viper.

When a dog has been bit, as soon as can be, wash the wounded part with hot vinegar, changing the vinegar two or three times, and cut off, or shave off the hair; then immediately light a piece of tinder, and lay it red hot upon each wound, until the dog is perfectly sensible of burning; then wash the wound, every day, with stale urine, and keep the dog muzzled, and it will certainly cure him.

Another.

If your dog is bit by a viper, wash the part clean with hot vinegar or urine, first shaving off the hair from the wound, and then anoint it with oil of vipers once a day, for six or seven days, but recollect to keep him muzzled, except when you are going to feed him, and then watch him close, least he attempt to lick the wounds.

N. B. A dog that is bit by a slow worm, or blind worm, is in as much danger as if he had been bit by a viper. The same recipe will do.

To cure a swelling in the throat of dogs.

Wash the part effected well, with vinegar mixed with salt, not too strong; then anoint it with oil of camomile.

Another.

Mutton suet three pounds, one pound and a half of gum elemi, and eleven ounces of common turpentine: The gum and suet to be melted and strained, afterwards add the turpentine while it is hot.

To recover the sense of smelling in any dog.

Two drachms of agaric, one scruple of sal gemmæ, beat these into powder, and mix them well with simple oxymel, making a

pill as big as a nut, cover it with butter, and give it to the dog, either by fair means or foul.

To cure dogs that have taken up poison, nux-vomicæ, &c.

Give him plenty of sweet oil, or cram him with salt, until he vomits, which must be done by extending his jaws with a stick, leaving sufficient room for your hand to administer it. Any medicine that will cause instantaneous vomiting, will probably perfect the cure. Two or three grains of blue vitriol, will cause immediate vomiting.

The following purge will be also of great use, if your dog has taken poison.

Take oil of English pitch, one large spoonful, for a large dog, or in proportion for a smaller; give it to him in the morning, and it will carry off the malignity the same day.

To destroy worms in dogs.

Two or three purges of aloes, or Scots pills.

Another.

One ounce of powder of tin, mixed up with butter, in three doses.

Another, but the best after repeated trials.

As much arsenic as will lay on the top of a sharp pointed penknife, mixed up in butter

Another.

The herb of savin dried and rubbed to powder; give as much as will lay on a shilling for a dose.

For colds and coughs in dogs.

Flour of sulphur, cold drawn linseed oil, and salt petre, of each one ounce; divide it into four doses, giving him one dose every other day, and also one spoonful of honey daily.

A cure for strains or sprains in the shoulder, or any part of a dog, except the legs.

Two ouces of spirits of wine, one ounce of turpentine mixed well together, and vegetos mineral water, very strong, to be applied before the fire.

For strains in the legs or feet of dogs.

Three ounces of camphor, three half pints of spirits of wine, and a table spoonful of laudanum, to be well rubbed eight or ten times a day, before a fire.

To cure dogs that have wounded themselves with stakes, or to stop a violent effusion of blood.

Cut or shave off the hair about the wounds, wash them with warm vinegar; and if the dog should receive a bruise in any joint, after shaving off the hair, rub the part gently with the following mixture, viz;

Two ounces of the oil of spike, and two ounces of the oil of swallows, mixed; but muzzle him when you lay it on.

To cure a fresh wound in a dog.

Where any wound is, the hair must be always shaved, or cut off. If there be any deep holes in the wounds, you must take some fresh butter and burn it in a pan; while it is hot make a tent of some lint, dip the lint into the butter, and place it in the hole of the wound; and as often as you change them, which should be twice a day, wash the parts clean with warm milk and water.

To cure films growing over the eyes of dogs.

When you perceive any film growing over your dogs eyes, it will be necessary to wash them with the following water, twice a day.

As much white vitriol about the size of a pea, put into half a

pint of spring water, after letting it remain for a day, take a fine piece of cloth and dip it in the liquor, soaking it well in it, and bathing the dog's eyes with it for a few minutes, and then, directly after, bathe his eyes again with spring water, after which take care to dry them; and if the vitriol water makes the eyes smart, be sure to repeat the washing twice a day at least.

To bring a bitch into heat any time you please.

Boil two heads of garlic, half a castors-stone, the juice of cresses, and twelve spanish flies, in a pipkin that holds a pint, with some mutton, and make broth of it; give of this two or three times, and it will cause the bitch to go proud, or if given to the dog will make him inclinable to copulate.

A receipt to make pills to poison mountains and other lands.

A large quantity of nux-vomicæ, and an equal quantity of arsenic, mixed well, with a thick paste, divided into balls of one ounce each; after which, a large piece of pack thread is to be tied round each, so as to cross and come up double; they are then to be dipped in candle tallow, in the same mode as dip candles are made, until they are covered very thickly, as it is not only an inducement to dogs to take it, but it preserves it so much from the weather, that when laid on the ground, the wet will not hurt it, and it will remain perfect the whole of the season, if

properly dipped; but if the least drop of water touches the inside poison, it will dissolve, and render it totally useless.

A receipt for making shoes or boots resist water.

Half a pound of tallow, four ounces of hogs lard, four ounces of turpentine, bees wax two ounces, and two ounces of olive oil. Melt the whole together, in a vessel over a fire, and stir it while melting.

Another.

Six ounces of bees wax, two ounces of virgins wax, one ounce of hard tallow, and one small barrel of lamp black, well mixed and boiled together, in an earthen pot, which is glazed on the inside. When you take it off the fire, put an ounce of plumb-tree gum beaten very small into it, but pour it out gradually, at the same time stirring it until it is cold.

Another.

One pint of linseed oil, half a pound of mutton suet, eight ounces of bees wax, and one pennyworth of rosin, the whole to be boiled together, and laid on when the boots are dry.

Another.

If the boots are new, take half a pound of bees wax, a quarter of a pound of rosin, one pound of rendered tallow, to be well boiled together and laid on the boots or shoes while warm.

N. B. In all these receipts, recollect it must never be laid on without the boots or shoes are perfectly dry.

To keep fire-arms from rusting.

Take six ounces of camphor, and two pounds of hogs lard, dissolve them together, take off the scum; mix as much black lead as will bring them to an iron colour, rub your arms over with this, and let it lie on twenty-four hours; then clean them as well as possible with a linen cloth, and they will keep, without the least rust, for a length of time.

To preserve the inside of barrels from rust, during the sporting recess.

Fill up the barrel with the best suet, and it will keep of rust for years, if it remains in it.

To make gun-barrels of a fine brown colour.

First rub your barrel bright with sand paper, to take off all greasiness, and fit a stick or piece of wood into the muzzle, long enough to hold it by.

Bruise half an ounce of stone brimstone, and sprinkle it over a gentle fire, either of wood, coal, or charcoal; hold your barrel over the smoak, turning and drawing it, backward and forward, until it is equally tinged all over; then place it in a cellar, or damp room, until the next day, in which time you will find it will throw out a fine rust; over which you may draw your finger,

to spread it even over the barrel, when let it rest another day; after which you must polish it with a hard brush, well rubbed with bees wax, and then with a dry woollen or rough linen rag, which will make it look of a beautiful brown colour.

Spaying bitches.

If you wish to spay your bitch, it ought to be done before she has ever had a litter of whelps, and in performing the operation don't take away all the roots and strings of the veins, for if you should, it will injure her swiftness ever after; but by performing the operation with care, and as it should be, it will make her much stronger, and more hardy. The best time to spay her will be in fifteen clear days after she has taken the dog.

There is one great inconvenience that always is attendant on dogs that are *gelt*, or bitches that are *spayed*, it surely slackens their metal, and they become so very fat, that do all you can to prevent it, you will not be able to keep them in proper condition, and they always become heavy and stupid, and lastly give up hunting altogether.

Manner of worming puppies.

This operation should be done when the puppies are about six weeks old. The skin that covers the worm must be cut with a lancet, an awl must then be introduced under the worm to raise

it up; it will then, on its appearance, be necessary to lay hold of it, (as very little force is required to make the worm appear) and draw it gently out; but care must be taken in the operation, that the worm does not break, for if it should, it must be taken out, and will give double trouble, and additional pain to the animal, which should be avoided if possible. Every sportsman should have his puppies wormed.

ON SHOOTING, AND VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

THE Compiler, before he enters on this head, wishes to observe to his readers, that should any repetition of what has been treated on, in the preceding pages, hereafter be found, he trusts such will be attributed to his great care, lest any necessary observations or information may have escaped his memory; and which, although they may be censured as repetitions, will be found nothing more than the necessary resumption of some important subject: For it will be allowed, he is certain, that repetition is preferable to omission, and in some instances it will be often perceived that it cannot be avoided; as in many places it becomes necessary to introduce points already enlarged on, in consequence of of their being so connected with the sport of Shooting, that an omission would render this subject totally deficient.

Certain it is, however, there are omissions in this work, yet not in consequence of carelessness, but the offspring of necessity: It is therefore the Compiler's intention, to take a view of all the parts already inserted in it, and he hopes, whatever deficiences may have occurred, will be supplied under this subject.

Shooting flying, is now brought to such perfection, aud reduced to such a science, that almost every person is become a gunner, therefore it is proper to point out a few necessary circumstances and hints, essential for every young beginner or sportsman to be acquainted with, on taking the field. Many think it sufficient that they are possessed of a compleat fowling-piece, and a brace of good dogs, but even these appendages without other cautions, will be found of little use.

The first and most necessary thing in shooting, is to pay proper attention to the weather, to the temperature of the air, and even those hours of the day, which are more or less favourable for shooting; for what amusement can the best equipped sportsman, or the most expert marksman, expect to experience on a wet day; every shooter must be well aware that game will not lie when the ground is wet. It will be therefore necessary to make some few observations on the weather, and if possible, draw some useful remarks that may assist us in embracing the opportunity of good weather, and avoiding bad.

I do not mean here to obtrude upon my readers, the idle and arbitrary observations of fanciful people, respecting the prognos-

ticks of the weather. That cloud of popular predictions from the animal world, which partly the sagacity and credulity of our countrymen have established, I purpose to set aside; as not proceeding from any necessary relations, (that we know of,) into the things themselves.

Such is the foretelling of rain and wind, from water-fowls flocking to land, or land fowls to the water; from birds pruning their feathers, geese cackling, crows cawing loud, and flying in companies, swallows chattering, and flying low, peacocks crying much, asses braying, &c. and such like idle remarks; when as sportsmen, we come to consider the weather, it is not merely our getting wet, nor being able to discharge our fowling-pieces, or the game not lying well, which must be the result from a wet day that we should so attentively consider; the great and important cause of our attention should be the *scent;* for scent, in bad weather, is equally lost to the pointer, as to the hound. When rain is over-head, or at hand, the pointer's olfactory organs of smelling, are equally lost as the hound's.* "*Scent,*" says *Mr. Beckford,* "is the leading principle, from which the great

* Sporting dogs also lose their olfactory powers in sea voyages, even in the short passage between England and Ireland; pointers have been known to lose them for months. hounds, as well as pointers, have been sent to the Cape of Good Hope, and although previous to their going there, were well known to possess every requisite necessary for animals, yet after their arrival, were never worth a shilling.

Sir Charles Turner sent from the Continent, in 1794, for a famous pack of harriers to England, and after they arrived there, for some time, they were to all appearance, extreme-

enjoyment of all field sports are derived," and therefore equally interesting to the shooter, as to the hunter. Experience must convince every sportsman, that difference of soil, occasions a difference of *scent*. *Mr. Somerville* conceives, that scent depends chiefly on two things, *the condition the ground is in, and the temperature of the air*; both of which should be moist, without being too wet. When both are in this condition, the scent is then perfect; but when the ground is hard, and the air dry, there will be scarcely any. It never lies well when the wind is in the north, north-east, or east; the soft winds from the south, and westerly, without rain, and not too rough, are the periods when scent lies the best. When cobwebs hang on bushes, or are observed on a sunny morning, along the tops of the stubbles, the scent will not lie well, nor will it when frost rises. The best method for every sportsman to pursue, will be to attend to the barometer; this should be always hung up in a place where there is no fire, as from it he may be able to foresee a change of weather, and so avoid unnecessary trouble, save time, and many a good wetting. There are barometers now made with screws underneath, called portable barometers, that lock up in a box, and do not suffer in the smallest degree from carriage, and which all keen sportsmen are never without; it is as necessary an appendage to a sportsman, as his brandy bottle.

ly bad; and not until some months after their being brought there, were they entitled to be called a pack of tolerable hounds. From this we may conceive, that climate, passage, air, or soil, have powerful effects on the olfactory organs of animals

When the barometer is high, or rising, you may expect good weather; but should it fall, or rise suddenly, it is not to be depended upon; however, by a little attention, and being accustomed to it, you will be able in a short time to foresee the change of weather. If, when you rise in the morning, you find the air moist and temperate, the quicksilver, in the glass, moderately high, or gentle convex, you have a fair invitation to prepare for this exercise.

In shooting, recollect that the hand and eye must go together; that is, the hand must obey the eye. When a bird is sprung, and flies off horizontally, to your left, the gun should be brought firmly to the shoulder, and the aim taken; when the sight of the gun bears firmly upon the object, (always place your left-hand on the part of the stock, just where the ramrod enters, by which means, it is held much steadier; if the wind should be high, or the gun a little heavy at the muzzle, then place your hand close to the guard, notwithstanding it has been so strenuously recommended to the contrary;) the trigger should be pulled at the same time, keeping the piece pointed, and still following the aim, without flinching But likewise do not involuntarily stop the motion of the arms, at the moment of pulling the trigger, for the instant the hand stops in order to fire, the object gets beyond the line of aim, and the shot will fly behind it. Many sportsmen are very apt to give a jerk of their heads, in pulling the

trigger, which throws the muzzle of the gun up in the air, and they miss the object. The great art in shooting, is not only in judging of the distance, but also to know how the aim is to be taken; for if a sportsman was to take it *at the bird* that was flying thus horizontally to his left, he must assuredly miss it. It is therefore proper, if the bird flies in this manner, that the aim should be taken before the object, at least, half the length of it; for it will be allowed, that although the time from which the shot leaves the piece, until it reaches the bird, is almost imperceptible, yet there is a sufficient time for it to escape this aim; therefore, you must be entirely regulated by observation of distance, as well as with what rapidity the object flies: It becomes, therefore extremely necessary to accustom the hand in taking aim, to follow the bird without suspending the motion, in the least degree, which is an essential point, towards acquiring the art of shooting well. The contrary habit, which is very difficult to correct, when once contracted, prevents a person from attaining perfection in the art; who, although in other respects, he may eminently possess *quickness of sight*, and *steadiness of aim*, yet these two good qualities will never constitute a *good shot*, except the motion of the gun corresponds with them, and receives no check while in the act of pulling the trigger: A bird flying to the right, in the same manner, may also be attended to; but it is reckoned the most difficult shot of the two, by reason of the lock coming in the way of the aim. If the

game flies over your head, never take aim until it passes you, and as a bird in that flight, is difficult to be shot, the aim, even then should be taken at half a foot before the bird, as the shot must rise in aiming at an object flying in that manner: It is always the best mode to allow the game to fly a little past you, before you pull, for by so doing, the shot will better enter the body. Shot, (as I have before remarked) delivered from a gun, in general lose or decrease, half the quantity every ten yards, or thereabouts; so that at forty yards, there will not be thrown in a fourth of what would be into the same space at twenty yards; from which it appears, that if you take aim a foot before a cross shot at forty yards, you will be the more likely to hit the bird with the centre shot, and which is looked upon to fly the strongest, and to be the most efficacious at long distances, than the diverging shot; for whether it be the shot striking against each other, or against the air, on first coming out of the muzzle, or whatever is the cause of their diverging, it must certainly in some degree retard their motion; and if there should be a brisk wind, it will certainly bend the course of the shot, therefore never fire against the wind, if you can avoid it; you must in this case observe if the wind blows with the bird, or against it. If it blows with it, you need only observe the general rule; because the wind helps the bird forward nearly as much as it diverts the shot: But if it should fly against the wind, the shot declines more than the bird is retarded, and therefore it shews the neces-

sity of taking aim a greater distance before it. The same rules should be observed in hare, or rabbit shooting, when running in a cross direction, observing and allowing for the distance, as well as their swiftness, which is not always the same: If they run straight from you, take aim between their ears, and probably the shot will strike them about the loins.

The great art of shooting flying, in which many are so exceedingly expert, and which can only be attained by care, attention, and practice, is not so easily acquired by young sportsmen, owing to the *timidity*, *volatility*, *anxiety*, and *impatience* of the mind, at the very critical moment, when all should be quiet and calm within; but at the impressive crisis when the point takes place, and the animal is fixed seemingly immoveable, under an instinctive impulse, which instantaneously excites in the human frame a most awful sensation, (the heart palpitating, with *hope*, *fear*, and *suspence*,) the birds rise, and with so much noisy rapidity, that the mind and body being equally agitated, no particular bird is singled for the aim, at the instant of *pulling* the *trigger*, and the whole escape.

There is no pursuit, game, or amusement, in which a proficiency is to be obtained, can require a nicer eye, a steadier hand, a cooler head, or a more philosophic patience, than shooting.

One good pointer, or two at the most, is sufficient in the field at a time, for two persons to be able to enjoy the sport, and pay the necessary attention to pointers that they require; more indi-

cate poaching, especially when two or three sportsmen are appointed with double-barrel guns.

Sportsmen of experience, waste neither their *time* nor their *labour*; they will know (according to the description I have before given under their respective heads,) where to find game according to the time of the day; and are seldom seen hunting their dogs in unlikely places, they beat and divide their ground slowly and deliberately, that none should remain unbeaten, or birds be left behind: When a dog stands (or points) the gunner should be stationary until the dog is settled to his point; if he should hurry up like all juvenile sportsmen, he not only hurries the dog, but makes him impatient, and the noise he makes in running, often causes the birds to rise out of shot; or even allowing the birds to lie, by the time he gets up to the dog, he is so flurried and out of breath, that he finds it impracticable to take regular aim, and when he fancies he does, the bodily *tremor* he is in, renders the shot ineffectual. To become a steady and good shot, there must be many rules strictly attended to, the principle of which, is cool deliberation; those of too warm, hasty, and impetuous disposition, will seldom arrive at perfection in shooting.

When the dog has enjoyed his point sufficiently, you should walk up slowly to him; and on the birds rising, you should cooly select a bird to take aim at, never cocking your pièce until you have made the choice; this once done, you should deliberately cover him, and then pull the trigger the instant you per-

ceive you have caught the object in a line with the sight at the muzzle of the piece.

Many gunners never shut an eye, which by some it is contended is a surer and better aim, and a more certain mode of killing game, but that is entirely custom; the best shots the Compiler ever knew, always shut one eye.

There is not any circumstance that should be called to the recollection, and indeed more deeply impressed on the mind of every young sportsman, than the caution of charging their guns in a safe position, and never to carry a gun cocked on any account; for it cannot be of any service to do so, as I can assure every young beginner, that all excellent shots never attempt to cock their pieces until the game rises, and care should be taken when you remove it back to the half-cock, not on any account to let go the cock, until you hear it tell back against the tumbler, always recollecting when you are doing so, to let the muzzle be erect in the air, and to carry your piece on your shoulder; but if you must carry it on your arm, keep your hand on the lock, and your thumb resting against the cock screw.

When different guns are employed, the locks should be all made if possible so as that every trigger should have the same pull, or force, required to snap it, for nothing can be more disagreeable to any gunner, than to be one day liable to a lock that is stiff, and the next to an easy going one, the consequence that results, will often cause the best and most expert shots to miss the

bird. In order to obviate such inconveniences, it will be but right to pass a screw through the tumbler on the inside of the lock, which will regulate the pull, when you can easily make it flippant or stiff, at your pleasure, and make the *sear* answer the trigger at will.

There are several sportsmen who are fond of hunting their dogs in company, I appeal to my reader, if he has not frequently gone out with a friend, each taking a brace of dogs, and has not only lost his days sport, but probably done material injury to both their dogs; for dogs that are not accustomed to hunt in company, are contending and running at each other, with the greatest emulation, and it often so happens, that if one person finds fault with another's dog, it is not always taken in a kind part, and seldom fails to produce unpleasant words, if not a duel. It may not be inapplicable also to remark, that the progress of shooting to perfection, is greatly retarded amongst the *juvenile* branches of sporting society, (when shooting in company) by invariably and emulatively (but very inconsiderately and imprudently) endeavouring to obtain the first shot; the error being mutual, so is the disappointment; probably both, or all miss, to which nothing ensues but a *vacant stare* of mortification, not to add disgrace; but if a bird happens to fall, it is productive of clamour, and general jealousy, it is claimed by all, and personal acidities from such trifling circumstances, have sometimes arisen about a *paltry partridge*, that have continued during the lives of the parties

The prudent and patient who shoots in company, will be circumspect in every motion, he will never fire across his neighbour, waiting patiently, until he selects a bird that either rises on his side, or waits until his companion has fired, it is then steady shots always do the most execution. The Compiler once happened to be out shooting with a gentleman, who alway fired in the greatest hurry, and whenever a single bird was sprung, by the Compiler's waiting, and letting this gentleman fire first, he was always sure to kill it, after the other missed it; when two are shooting, each should take invariably the bird on his own distinct side, and if it should be a single bird, the shot should belong to the person at whose side it rose.

In very hot weather, game should be hunted for in plains, and open grounds, at the same time bearing in mind, that during the heat of the day, the birds frequent moist places, but in cold weather, they will be most commonly found on little hills, exposed to the south, along hedge-rows, among the heath, in stubble and in pastures, where is much furze and fern.

Every sportsman should prefer going out early in the morning, according to the old saying of "*the early bird gets the worm,*" besides, in *very dry* weather, it will be found necessary to do so, before the dew is gone off the ground.

It will be always best, to hunt your dogs, as much as possible against the wind, not only to prevent the game from perceiving the approach of the sportsman and his dog, but also to enable your

dog to scent the game at a greater distance. In beating a country, it should be done judiciously, and sportsmanlike, not going a-head through it, but forming circles, and beating out, or traversing the ground often; when you have made your dogs beat any likely places, as soon as they have done it, call them into *heel*, for by not allowing them to beat unnecessary ground, you will reserve their strength, and keep them fresh, when perhaps you would wish to have them so.

You should never fail to beat your ground close and often, for as I said before, he who patiently beats, and ranges his ground over and over again, without being discouraged, will not only kill the greatest quantity of game, but if he is shooting in company, will be sure to find it, where others have passed without discovering any; for a hare, or rabbit, will frequently suffer one to pass several times, within a few yards of its *form*, without getting up; and it often happens, that birds lie so dead that they will suffer themselves almost to be trodden on, before they will rise: You should always keep a sharp look out, carefully examining every bush, or tuft of grass. It will be also proper to stop every now and then, for this interruption of motion, frequently determines the game to spring, which otherwise would have suffered you to pass.

There are no fixed rules for beating covers, but yet they should not be beat in a slovenly manner. "Make the ground good," says *Mr. Daniel*, "it will save time, and frequently produce the

object of pursuit." A *nid** of pheasants, are sometimes collected in a narrow compass, and in the middle of the day conceal themselves very close. In the early part of the season, pheasants prefer *grassy, brambly, two* and *three* year old copse, and it is not labour in vain to try higher growths, for as the season advances, they will lie in clearer bottoms.

As soon as you have fired, you ought to call your dog, and make him lie down at the shot, if you kill a bird, let it remain, or if you have only winged it, do not attempt to run to secure it, it will be better to lose the bird than spoil your dog; and should he be a young one, the farther the bird has run the better for him, for one bird retrieved in this way, will be of more service to the dog, than ten days hunting, by thus being accustomed to come in, or lie down at shot, until you have reloaded, you will not have the mortification to see the birds raised by your dog, when you are not probably loaded, and the precaution will be attended with satisfaction to yourself, in point of shooting, and improvement to him. Is it not very natural, if a dog sees you run to do the same? The Compiler has pointers, that if they hear the shot fired, will not even come up to him to find out the cause of the firing, as many dogs will; but will sit down at a distance, until they see him move.

In the north of England, particularly Cumberland, they have capital pointers and setters; and the sportsmen of that country, (at least such as the Compiler has seen) are perfectly content

* Vide Technical terms. Index.

with their dogs, if they will but stand the birds, and afterwards leave them to act as they please, not caring, or paying the smallest attention to their running on the shot.

The Compiler had three dogs, *Brisk*, *Chance*, and *Nelson*,* (setters) which came to their separate sets in one field; he first went up to *Chance*, and killed a partridge to him, and although the other two dogs saw the bird fall, they remained steady at their sets; on picking it up, *Chance* backed the others directly. The Compiler then loaded, and killed a cock-pheasant to *Nelson*, and afterwards a hare to *Brisk*, and not a dog broke ground, or *rumpled* either *fur* or *feather*.

Pointers should be kept always tied up; if they are not, they will be liable to several accidents, but those that are kept so, to be all the better when they come to be hunted.

If the owner lives in the country, these dogs are always trying to get into the kitchen, and although they do no damage, they still have the name of it; for every thing Molly the cook breaks, is sure to be charged to *Ponto's* account.

If, on the contrary, the owner lives in a town, the dog is liable to have his legs broken, or perhaps a kettle tied to his tail; besides, the disgrace that attaches to the owners of these dogs, which are always seen stealing, and sculking through the streets, half starved.

* These are the two setters that Captain Bagott gave the Compiler two hundred guineas for.

A pointer should never be allowed to fetch, or bring his game, if he should be hunted in company, for there is not one dog in one hundred, but it will be sure to make him *break* his game, and is certain to make young dogs also break away at shot.

When they become hard mouthed, and take to breaking both flesh and feather, it is a crime that becomes incorrigible, and of which they are seldom if ever divested of, without very severe correction, and I am certain, that every sportsman will consider, that prevention is preferable to the uncertainty of cure.

As to fastening a bell round a pointer's neck in pheasant shooting, good reason will be found assigned under the head of Pheasants, why this mode should not be adopted. But the ridiculous assertion, of fastening one to a dog's tail, being of no use, must be meant to *act instead of a kettle*, as it is admirably calculated to produce the same effect that a dog experiences in the street, with a kettle tied to that part, as well as cutting his hams to pieces.

Let us now return to shooting, and try if it is possible to introduce any mode of making indifferent shots become good marksmen.

How many young shooters, as well as old ones, exercise their skill at *swallows* and *martins*, conceiving, that if they could shoot one of these birds called a *screech*, they must infallibly kill every species of game they fire at. If a pursuit of this kind, (or becoming expert by practising at these birds,) could

constitute a good shot, or even ensure our killing one shot in every three, we fire at game; we should not think it a sin, in destroying (by practice,) these useful birds, that devour daily so many hundreds of flies, gnats, &c; but this kind of practice will not have the desired effect. Swallow shooting is all a knack, no human being could possibly kill a swallow, except merely by chance, when it becomes stationary in the air, or some favourable opportunity is seized of its steadiness, which all professed swallow shooters, or those who shoot for wagers, are well acquainted with; but the Compiler will hold any wager, or sum, that the best shot in Europe, or in the world, will not kill ten swallows out of twenty, provided he is forced to take every bird on the wing that comes within shot, or is deemed so by judges: nay, he will go further, and allow him not to fire at any swallow that is not within forty paces of him. Therefore, as to those *feather-bed sportsmen*, who conceive, by being able to shoot swallows, they will be also enabled to kill every kind of game; they will find themselves not only miserably mistaken; but the question will arise, whether they could possibly kill a partridge at thirty yards?

How many sportsmen are there, most excellent shots at partridges, who could not (though they were to gain the world for it) shoot a grous, they become so alarmed at their rising, not being accustomed to the sport, that the Compiler can de-

clare, he has seen one of the best shots at partridge, when out grous shooting, not be able to kill one.

All the great shooting feats we read of, are entirely a knack. On the 8th of June, 1803, a singular wager of forty guineas, was decided at *Chester-le-Street*, by adjutant Cooke, of the *Usworth* cavalry. Ten penny pieces were separately to be thrown up, at which he was to shoot in whatever direction they might be cast, and put at least ten shot marks on each; upon counting the shot marks on the *ten* penny pieces, they amounted to *three hundred* and *forty one*, and the first *three* pieces contained no less than *one hundred* and *seven*. A great deal of money was lost in consequence, as the odds, previous to shooting, were *twenty* to *one* against the shooter.

Another remarkable shooting wager of this kind, was lately decided at *Brighton*. Ensign Burrows, of the *Sussex* militia, betted Lieutenant Otto, of the same regiment, a guinea a shot, that he did not miss striking a small apple, which he was to cast from his hand, with his fowling piece, before it reached the earth; he accordingly discharged *twenty four* rounds, the number agreed on, in the manner specified, of which three only failed in effect. The result of course was, a gain of *twenty one* guineas, on the part of the Ensign.

It cannot be allowed as a criterion, in either of these instances, of these gentlemen being able to shoot game with an

equal certainty, as this manner of shooting has been long known to proceed from a knack.

Snipe shooting is a sport more capable of training a young gunner to become a tolerable shot, than swallow shooting; yet, how many capital snipe shooters are there, who cannot shoot a partridge, pigeons from the box, sparrows with bits of white paper tied round their necks, and all such stratagems, can never constitute a good shot; those shots are so different from these we experience when in the field, and which are presented to our view by game, that they agree with the just remark Mr. Daniel makes in his Field Sports: "The pigeon from the *trap*, glides off in silence, and not a nerve is discomposed, by the smallest alarm; but in the field, when the *partridge* or *pheasant* rises, with all the vigour of an animal exerting its powers, to preserve life and liberty, the consequent sound of their pinions, in their ascent into the air; and which is also attended with a considerable noise, will, perhaps, longer create more of that trepidation, (which when possessed even in a trifling degree, effectually deters from steadiness in shooting) than if the shooter has never accustomed himself to fire at objects, whose flight is so dissimilar."

From this, we may rest assured, that nothing can bring any sportsman to perfection, in shooting game flying, but such as he is inured to; a man who is used to shoot partridges, which, when they rise in a covey, make no small noise, is extremely agitated on the rising of a pack of grous, or the whirring of a cock

pheasant; and what, therefore, must the difference be, between the *noise* of the swallow, and the flushing of a covey of partridges. The only plan then, is for every person to pursue field sports, and those sorts of game, that give universal joy and satisfaction, to every keen, and thorough-bred sportsman.

The Compiler here gives the plan of a shooting journal, by which the sportsman will not only be able to tell what game he kills, but also to see what improvement he makes in shooting, and under the head of observations, keep in memory the best stocked manors.

As to the mere science of shooting, to those who are adepts, and good shots, it is only necessary to observe, that if the game is met with, and the weather permits, destruction is inevitable; however, we perhaps will find many sportsmen, who *draw the long bow.*

With respect to shooting, many advance, that they have killed numbers they have not even seen; but this is not prevalent, except with ignorant, self sufficient sportsmen, who often declare, that they have not missed a shot for a season: to this, we are at liberty to attach what degree of credit we please; but the Compiler wishes to impress on the minds of every person, that the man never breathed yet, who was, or has been a sportsman, but has missed, not only one shot, but numbers.

Perhaps the following observation, will in some degree, serve to prove the truth of this assertion: a number of gentlemen being collected to shoot cocks, on the lakes of *Killarney*, happened to flush one, on the edge of a lake, and the bird accordingly flew out, crossing it towards the woods, to one of the little islands; upon which the best shot in the company fired, within thirty yards of him, and it was visible to the whole party, (among whom the Compiler was) that the shot went all round him, and garnished in that way, that it did not take the effect; from hence we may conclude, that the best *aim*, and the most experienced gunner, cannot kill every shot, as the bird, or object may escape, by the clustering of the shot, or the partial

manner with which some pieces may throw it; although the aim may be so exactly and correctly taken, yet the gunner may frequently miss a bird, or a hare.

I have, therefore, only to recommend the foregoing rules to be attended to, which by constant practice, coolness, and deliberation, and never being in a hurry, will be certainly found the only true method of attaining perfection in shooting.

The quantity of game, killed by some sportsmen, is really astonishing. Mr. Daniel, in his Field Sports, informs us, that on Mr. Colquhoun's manor, at *Writham*, in Norfolk, the late Duke of Bedford, and six other gentlemen, in the year 1796, killed *eighty* cock pheasants, and *forty* hares, besides partridges, in one day.

Mr. Coke, the 7th of October, 1797, upon his manor at *Warham*, and within a mile's circumference, bagged *forty brace* of partridges in eight hours, at *ninety three* shots; every bird was killed singly. The day before, on the same spot, he killed *twenty two brace* and a *half*, in *three hours*. In 1801, this gentleman killed in *five days, seven hundred and twenty six partridges*.

In January, 1803, Mr. Coke, Sir John Shelly, and Mr. T. Sheridan, went over to *Houghton*, in Norfolk, on a *Chasse* for their friend lord Cholmondeley, and killed there, only with their three guns, (in one day) *fourteen brace and a half of hares, sixteen couple of rabbits, twenty four brace of pheasants, thirteen brace of partridges*, and *sixteen couple of woodcocks*. However great, and

surprizing this shooting may appear, it is nothing to what has been done abroad, in Germany, and Bohemia, of which I shall only give one instance, copied from *Mons. Dutens, Itineraire*, Edit. 1793. *p.* 153: "Game is in such abundance in the kingdom of Bohemia, that in the year 1753, the emperor Francis I. made a *partié de chasse* of twenty three sportsmen, to go with him on a shooting excursion, to one of the estates of prince Colleredo: in the space of eighteen days, the imperial sportsmen fired 116,209 shots, and killed 19,545 partridges; 18,243 hares; 9,499 pheasants; with other inferior game, amounting to 47,950. I had this anecdote from the prince Colleredo himself."

These exploits in shooting, seemed admirably calculated, not only to deafen the operator, but to severely beat his shoulder, almost to pieces; when we consider that every fowling-piece requires to be washed, at every *twenty* discharges at least, and the operation is performed, we are lost in amazement at such an extraordinary occurrence.

This mode of shooting, or rather the grand and magnificent stile of sporting, by which such slaughter is to be effected, is not such as could gratify the feelings and satisfaction of a keen and experienced sportsman. These kind of gunners, are well suited to the old saying, "*never make a toil of pleasure;*" from this language we may describe two kinds of shooters. The first, is a man of fortune, surrounded with game-keepers, (let us suppose the scene for the present in Norfolk,) pointers, setters, &c.

&c. without number, *Manton* guns, and all in compleat retinue, going out at perhaps twelve o'clock, (the hour of indolent, and *feather bed* gunners,) into the highest preserved covers in that county, where the game is so very tame, that twenty birds may be killed in a few hours; their servants with clean guns ready, and if necessary, loaded by them; and probably, if the dog of one of these *elegant* sportsmen is admired, or gains credit, if his master is asked his name, he makes for answer, "he really cannot tell you, but will ask his game-keeper."

The second sportsman, is that who rises early, and attends to his own appointments, guns, &c. Where is the sportsman that does not like a little pains or difficulty in finding game? A keen sportsman, would as soon fire at crows, or barn-door fowl, as at game so plenty as on Mr. Coke's manors in Norfolk; besides this shooting is not the perfection that such a sportsman requires, that perfection exists, only in seeing the dogs perform, and do their duty; and not in slaughtering of game, but in seeing them *draw back* and *stand*, and above all, steady on the shot. The only comparison, the Compiler begs leave to offer, on these two different subjects, is, that every person, will find himself more at home, or induced to sport, by having his dogs subordinate to his own discipline, and management, than he possibly can by leaving them to others, or partaking of the sport with any other person's dogs; for example, many men who are particularly fond of hunting with their own hounds, even on a

bad, and indifferent day, will, by the greatest difficulty be prevailed on to go out with a neighbouring pack, on a fine day, and when a good run may be expected.

In Bohemia, in Germany, and many other places abroad, game are so very plenty, that the traveller perceives them in numbers, lying on the sandy roads of those countries, basking; and no more alarmed on seeing passengers, than our common fowl, or poultry are in this kingdom; frequently allowing themselves to be struck with a whip, before they attempt to fly away.

It is a certain fact, and well known to every person that has been abroad, in Bohemia, or any of those parts, that a person is not considered a real sportsman, until he can discern, and tell the difference, between the droppings of the cock and hen, of every kind of winged game; this is considered there, to be one of the first steps that qualifies the gunner to be deemed a compleat sportsman.

There is nothing that conduces more to every person's sport, than paying proper attention to his dogs; for without that, pointers and setters will fall off very much, and will not be able to hunt if neglected; frequent cleaning of their kennels must be always attended to, clean water should be placed near them every day in summer time; in the place of straw, they should have sand, or deal shavings for their bed. Whenever they are given flesh, or carrion, it should be boiled; there is nothing that

puts a pointer, or any dogs so quickly into condition,* as barley meal and graves; but this food will not answer in the hunting season, it will be then proper to give them oat meal boiled to stirabout, and new milk, sometimes meat, or flesh, which ought to be boiled, and can be kept sweet for a month or two, by burying it under ground, while raw. After a severe day's hunting, with respect to remedies for their feet, see Receipts.

By such care and management, if your dogs have not had the distemper, or should it get into their kennels, it will be the easier got rid of; for dogs that are paid proper attention to, before they get it, are sure to recover; and mostly have it but in a slight degree; neglect will frequently bring it on, and when that is the case, the animal seldom recovers. There are three almost incurable disorders incident to the brute creation: murrain in horned cattle, glanders in the horse, and distemper in the canine race; and it has been remarked by sportsmen, that have been in the habits of being all their lives amongst dogs, that ten now are known to die of the distemper, for one that dies of madness.

* The word *condition,* seems by many, not to be properly taken as to its meaning; some sportsmen conceive, that a dog is not in condition, except he is fat: a dog in proper condition, and fit for hunting, will look more lean than fat, although his coat will be as fine as the fattest dog. It is well known, by experience, that a pointer in flesh, is not only *burst,* and rendered less able to beat, but he loses his nose; the olfactory organs being defective, and that all dogs possess the sense of smelling the best, when leanest,

As there are many differences respecting pointers, setters, and cockers, (or spaniels) it may not be amiss, to add some remarks with regard to them. Pointers certainly have the preference, and are allowed to have the finest noses; but that setters require water on a mountain, and cannot hunt without it, there remains no doubt in the mind of every sportsman, who has been in the habits of shooting with these kind of dogs. It is therefore rather a singular declaration in the Sportsman's Cabinet, that it is erroneous and idle to say, that setters will not hunt without water; it can only be said, as an apology, that whoever gave the author to understand, that setters did not require water oftener than pointers in hunting, must have been either grossly ignorant, or very little accustomed to make use of setters. The decision upon this head, I shall leave to such sportsmen, as can evidently support the statement I have made. It is with equal astonishment we read the following paragraph: "It creates no surprize with the observant traveller, to hear in Ireland the pointer almost invariably called an English spaniel; as this, with a sportsman of that country, might be considered only a slight deviation from the custom of this."

The assertion of such palpable falshoods, not grounded or corroborated by any circumstance connected with truth, must surprize the sportsmen of that country to hear. What is called a setter in England, is termed an English spaniel in Ireland, as they were first brought into that kingdom from England, and

it can be proved, by the due care and attention paid to the breeding of them, that dogs of this description in Ireland, are become so beautiful, as to excite the admiration of the sporting world, and are much sought after by gentlemen of this country. To attempt to affix this charge of ignorance upon Irish sportsmen, by stating, that they call pointers English spaniels, is downright impudence, which I am called upon by many to contradict. In that country I can vouch, they are as keen sportsmen, as good judges of dogs, and have as good as the globe can produce. It would not have created my surprize, to have read in this author's assertions, that the natives of that country were living in a wild state, and that the common Irish were caught in the woods, which was a long time believed by many. This assertion, would on the face of it, have borne as much resemblance to truth, as what he advanced; but the only caution I can give such authors, who are totally ignorant of the subjects they write on, is never to attempt in future to bring such preposterous stories before the public.

But to resume our subject. I may assert, that there are good and bad of both, pointers and setters: the pointers shine in an inclosed country; the setters on mountains, and in an open one.

Respecting the spring spaniel, I have made it my business to gain every information possible. The Rev. Mr. Morshead, of *Bath*, a gentleman of great shooting celebrity, a keen and exact

sportsman, who gave up all his time to the amusement; never made use of any dog but a springer, when he resided in Cornwall. He insists, they are preferable to either pointer or setter. This respectable old sportsman, was very intimate with a brother-sportsman of his, named *John Buller,* who was as partial to the pointer, as his friend was to the springer; after many friendly differences upon their individual excellencies, these gentlemen agreed to make a fair and impartial trial. They did not merely decide on the event of a day's sport, nor one season's experience, they kept it up for many years; and were equal in point of shooting, but the divine generally won the day. He made it an invariable rule, to attend his friend, on first going out, when the pointers found the birds, and Mr. Buller killed his first bird, the clergyman was always sure of good sport, and commonly killed two birds for his friend's one; on the average, Mr. Morshead declared to me, that after the covey was once sprung, and fired at, they used to disperse to the hedge-rows, coverts, &c. and then he used to *pick* them up one after another, and always killed more game than Mr. B; from this, we may conceive, that spaniels are preferable, after the birds are once found by the pointers.

A sportsman properly equipped, should always have a shooting poney, or a dog-cart, indeed both are indispensibly necessary to those who shoot much, and go long distances for their game; for dogs should not be travelled on a road, as it destroys their

feet: besides, if a sportsman has twelve or fifteen miles to go from home, to get into a game country, his dogs would be much injured, by travelling so far; but when the dog-cart is made use of, both dogs and shooter, after a dozen miles, are as fresh as possible, and just as fit for sport as when they left home. If a sportsman is a good œconomist, and makes shooting his study, he should have a good strong hack that will go in the cart, that he could afterwards put his shooting saddle on, and ride for the day. A shooting saddle should be made very different from any other, it should be destitute of a tree, made long, and covered with soft leather, having a holster on either side, large enough to hold a lump of lead, weighing from 12, to 14 pounds, to which lead, a long rein of leather should be attached, long enough to allow the lead to drag on the ground; this should be always left in the holster, until the dog points, when just before you dismount, you must take out the lead, and drop it on the ground, which will prevent your poney from running away, if he is afraid of the gun; for when he begins to run off, the lead will rap him severely about the legs, and will occasion him directly to stand.

It is often conceived, that sportsmen who constantly ride out shooting, have an advantage over those that walk; certainly, it is less fatiguing to ride, than to walk, and happy is it for those who can afford to do so, as well as to have every other necessary comfort that the sport requires; but this can only be in an open country, the pedestrian having always a decided superiority over the

equestrian, in inclosures. Those who practice shooting riding, the moment they spring a covey, mount, and gallop off to the spot, little thinking about their dogs, that seldom fail to be so out of breath, or irritated, that the game once in ten times is recovered; and besides, ask any impartial gunner that rides, if he has not lost many shots in a day, by being on horseback, on moors, mountains, or plains. Horses are certainly of service, but not in an enclosed country.

Other equipments are also necessary, for there is nothing that indicates more a compleat sportsman, than his appointments. An instrument, and cleaning-case, should be always part of the appendages; for, supposing that a sportsman on an excursion to the Highlands of Scotland, should break his main-spring, or soften his hammer, (by the incessant fire every one is forced to keep up at game, in that country, for the first three weeks of the season) he would be unhappily mistaken, if he thought he could find a *blacksmith* to repair *that job* for him; although he might get one that would very readily assist him *in doing another*.

A very necessary caution remains still to be given, to every young beginner, not on any account to purchase a pointer, of any kind of sporting dog, without at least three weeks trial; the number of impositions daily practised, by a set of dog-breakers, dog-mongers, and dog-merchants, are so numerous, that I will venture to assert, there are very few unexperienced beginners

but who have experienced their roguery. If you are about to purchase a dog, a fair trial will of course be granted; except the owner is conscious, that the dog is incapable of fulfilling the engagements he warrants. The following fact may be relied on:

A dog-teacher sold me a brace of pointers, which he warranted under his hand, to be staunch to bird, gun, and net; being in a hurry at the time, and just on the eve of setting out for Scotland, I took them on the fellow's assurances, (and oath,) that there were not a stauncher, or better brace in the universe, that they would stand until the *moon changed;* and, in short, he gave them such a character, as induced me to take them. My surprize may be easily conceived, when I got on the mountains, to find that these dogs never made a point, or shewed the smallest inclination to do so; running in on every bird, until at last, I became so exasperated, as to shoot them both, after having paid twenty guineas for them. If I had acted with caution, and not have killed them, I might have recovered my money; but the idea of carrying a brace of such useless animals, nearly three hundred miles back, determined me on dispatching them.

From this unfortunate circumstance, I trust my readers will act with necessary caution, and not allow themselves to be duped by such deceitful fellows as dog-breakers. Always take the dog you wish to make trial of by himself, not allowing the owner, on any account to accompany you; and take out also a staunch pointer of your own. You must not be too hasty in passing

judgment, for sometimes it may so happen, that the best dog may commit faults, especially on his going out first, in company with a strange one. If you find, on ten days trial, that he stands backs, does not chase, has good bottom, and above all, a fine nose, chuse him, and prize him; but there are very few young sportsmen, that ever think of buying a pointer, until the season is just at hand, and even then, two great merits of every pointer remain unascertained, I mean, standing shot, or down shot; and respecting their staunchness, some pointers that will work, point, stand, and back admirably well, will afterwards break away on the shot. Therefore, the best time for buying a pointer, is in January, as the season is going out at that time, a trial can be had if they will stand the shot; besides, they are considerably lower in price, the season being just at an end; and if they are only tolerably good, then they will have time enough before them to become steady prior to the ensuing season.

The following fact may be relied on, which I had from *Mr. Tugwell*, and is such an uncommon instance of the extreme staunchness of a pointer, that I conceive it well worth relating: a servant who used to shoot for *Mr. Clutterbuck*, of *Bradford*, a few years back, had a pointer of this gentleman's out shooting, when he had an excellent day's sport; on returning, the night being dark, by some chance he lost two or three birds out of his bag, and on coming home missed them; he called a fellow-servant in the house, and informed him of the loss, requesting him to

get up early the next morning, and seek for them near the turnpike, being certain he had brought them as far as that place. The man accordingly arose, and not a hundred yards from the spot, found Mr. Clutterbuck's pointer lying down at the birds; where, he probably had remained all night, although the poor animal was so severely hunted the day before.

When sportsmen come to consider, how short a time they have to enjoy the sport of shooting, they ought to pay closer attention to it; for from the 12th of August, to the 31st of December, both days inclusive, deducting the sundays that intervene, as well as Christmas-day, the number will be found to be only 120 days for that species of sporting: black game, 114; partridge, 129; and pheasant-shooting, 104; so that the season does not last, as some people conceive, for half-a-year.

I have omitted wild-fowl shooting, as not being that kind of gentlemanlike amusement practised, or indeed generally liked. If, in the course of a day's shooting, a sportsman should happen to fall in with any, he might get one shot, which is all he could get after toiling perhaps all day, in endeavouring to steal on a *wing* of plover, or in creeping near a lake, to get a shot at a flock of wild-ducks; only one shot can be possibly obtained before they all fly away. The only time to be successful in shooting water-fowl, is at night; and what gentleman would like to remain out of a cold one, in order to get one shot at them, and perhaps a cold that might terminate his life? in my opi-

nion, there is no pleasure in shooting of any kind, but where the faithful dog is a necessary attendant.

The preservation of game, is of considerable importance to those gentlemen who have manors,—although under the title Hare, I gave some *poaching* hints to shoot them in cover; yet I do not mean that this treatise shall convey many useful hints to poachers,—my care shall be to give every advice that may disappoint them; for as there is not any device or stratagem of these people, but what I am completely informed of, I am the better enabled therefore to frustrate their schemes. At the same time, I candidly confess, I would assist and encourage poaching, where gentlemen are so miserably mean, and so remarkable for persecuting every person, that perhaps unintentionally might have transgressed once or twice; were I to find such as these in a country I resided in, or near, I would not only encourage poaching, to an extent beyond idea, but would pledge myself not to leave a pheasant, partridge, or hare, on the best stocked manors, in the course of one season; and I would not make use of either net or gun to effect it.

The best mode for preserving grous, is by poison, *nux vomica,* and yellow arsenic, of each, half an ounce, mixed with a quarter of a pound of wheaten flour, and divided into pills of an ounce each. These pills must be dipped in rendered tallow, as candles are, until they have a thick coat of the same, which preserves them, not only from being destroyed by the wet, but it in-

duces the dog to take it; for a dog must be made use of to poach grous. The poison should be laid round the borders of the property, and a second line inside of the first, so that if the dogs miss the first, they will by chance take the second; it should be put on a slate, or a small stone should be put under it, or a short stick drove in the ground, with the poison secured to the top of it; but not so as to project over the heath, which should be drawn round it, in order to keep it from the sight of the poacher. In Ireland, this is always practised, and those who value their dogs, never attempt to approach the poisoned grounds; by the law there, it is necessary to give a month's notice in the newspaper, printed in the county wherein the property is, and those who wish to poison, are often debarred the pleasure of shooting on their own mountains for the season; but if the poison is marked as it should be, it can be taken up by the keepers, the day before the owner wishes to shoot, and laid again at night, without the smallest risque, if the keeper is a steady person.

A gentleman in the west of Ireland, who was remarkably tenacious of his game, poisoned his mountains one season, and having it marked, used to have it taken up when he thought proper. Some sportsmen who happened to come on it one day to shoot, had three brace of beautiful setters poisoned; in revenge they made up a couple of thousand pills, and in the night, thickly poisoned all these mountains, unknown to the proprietor, who, on taking up his own poison, and going out to shoot, was

greatly surprized to find all his fine dogs dead, in the course of three hours after he began to shoot, never suspecting the trap that was laid for him. It is inconceivable to think how immediate the death of every dog is after taking this poison, he seldom outlives seven minutes; except some assistance is given, which a sportsman seldom can come at on a mountain, unless he is aware of poison being laid, and then it is to be hoped, he would not be so imprudent as to risque the life of a valuable dog.

Preserving partridges is a task of greater difficulty than preserving grous. Many stubbles after the corn is cut, present on their surface an innumerable quantity of bushes, briars, &c. which in a great measure destroy the effect of the draw-net; for if the net once touches them, it is a hundred to one if you take a single bird; and those fields that are clear and void of bushes, should have a good deal of *dog bramble* cut and laid on the stubbles, so that it may catch the net on the slightest touch, and roll along with it.

The tunnel-net when properly set, is almost sure to do business, and if once the birds are got under what the poacher calls the clouds,* they cannot escape, for he then secures them, by drawing a peg every now and then, as occa-

* Clouds is the poachers term for that part of the net that runs out from the mouth of the tunnel, and rises up gradually as it runs out; but, in reality it is the mouth of the tunnel.

sion requires, which lessens the clouds, and is sure to catch them; and indeed it is scarcely to be guarded against.

There is one mode commonly practiced, which is sure to defeat the poacher if it can be effected; but it requires a vast deal of trouble to compleat it, which is, in the early part of the season, as soon as the birds can be netted, to take one of them, and cut off the *bearing claws*, which will prevent his running, and consequently force him to spring; when, if one bird of the covey springs, all the rest will instantly do the same, but all running together, are sure to be turned into the tunnel.

With respect to the preservation of pheasants, the same means may be employed as are used to preserve partridges, or a little poison laid on the preserves will be of service; but as to traps, &c. after being twenty-four hours under a heavy dew, or fall of rain, the springs are totally useless, and can have no effect.

In preserving hares, there is nothing that tends more towards it, than painting the two last rails of each gate in a field white; there are two sorts of nets, *gate-nets* and *purse-nets*. The gate-nets are fixed to the third bar of the gates of such fields, as have green wheat, young clover, or wherever the poacher knows that hares feed; these nets are fastened to the ground under the lower bar, by wooden forked pegs, a *mute lurcher* is then sent into the field, or let go, who is so trained to this business, that he never attempts to stir, until the nets are properly set, and then goes off by a motion of the hand all over the field, and if a

hare is in it he is sure to chase her into the net; but if she perceives the white on the gate, she will directly turn away from it, and make for their meuses. It is therefore the duty of every careful game-keeper, constantly to examine these spots for wires, sometimes at these places the *purse-nets* are laid at the same time with the *gate-nets*, so that if one fails, the other is almost sure to answer the desired effect. In hare warrens poison is a most excellent remedy,—for dogs that are apt to come and disturb them, it should be always laid.

I shall now proceed to make a few necessary remarks on the game laws, with some other observations respecting the various hardships that may be met with, notwithstanding a person should be qualified, licenced, and act in the strictest manner conformable to them, and correctly speaking, in every way consistent with the letter of the law.

That every gentleman should forbear going on the grounds of another without leave, is not to be disputed; but then, on the other hand, the unhandsome method pursued by owners of land towards gentlemen found trespassing, must, and has ever given much dissatisfaction; intricate as the game laws are, in the hands of many people they are used as the oppressive engines of malice. To a person who is tenacious of his game, and litigious, a lord of the manor, and a justice of peace, (all concentered in one,) little justice is to be expected from that quarter; more particu-

larly, if it should be on his own manors, that the person should be found trespassing.

When it comes to this, and the trespasser is summoned before such a person, or before a single magistrate, to whom (by the laws of this kingdom) the matter of question and fact are entrusted to be settled, partiality and justice have an ample field to range in, either by boldly asserting that to be proved which is not so, or more artfully suppressing some circumstances, stretching and warping others, and distinguishing away the remainder: however, the laws of this kingdom are one dignified process of deliberative justice, tempered with the most indulgent humanity, and a trial by jury, ever has been, and it is hoped, ever will be looked upon as the glory of the English law.

It is certainly the most transcendant privilege which any subject can enjoy, or wish for, that he cannot be affected either in his property, his liberty, or his person, but by the unanimous consent of twelve of his neighbours and equals. The impartial administration of justice, which secures both our persons and properties, is the great end of civil society. But if that be entrusted entirely to the magistracy, a select body of men, and those generally selected by the King, or such as enjoy the highest offices in the state; their decisions, in spite of their own natural integrity, will have frequently an involuntary bias, towards those of their own rank and dignity: it is not to be ex-

pected from human nature, that the few should be always attentive to the interests and good of the many.

The Compiler recommends to every person who has a trial on the game laws, always to have it tried by a *special* jury, the expence is but trifling, when compared with the good that must result from such, and for this very reason it is recommended, that not less than three different times, at different assizes in this kingdom he has seen a jury sworn in, to try a cause of a nature so very intricate, that if a jury of the first barristers was to be sworn, it would have puzzled them. The poor unfortunate men who composed these juries, were as totally ignorant of the oath they took, as they were of the business they assembled to decide upon; and the Compiler twice has seen, two of one jury, and five of another, fast asleep on their seats: however, to obviate this in some measure, it is therefore wisely ordered, that the principles and axioms of law, which are general propositions flowing from abstracted reason, and not accommodated to times or to men, should be deposited in the breasts of the judges, to be occasionally applied to such facts, in cases properly ascertained before them, for their partiality can have but little scope.

When a special jury is summoned, it consists of picked gentlemen of the county, men of information, proper judges, and arbitrators of justice, who question (if necessary) the evidences, and will understand the charge from a judge, which the other jury from ignorance are incapable of, although pointed out to

them in the clearest and plainest manner; in fact, it would be much better (if a special jury were not called) to leave it to the entire decision of the judge, which in all instances is the case, and only for the *fashion* of the business, and to say there was a jury, it would be better to have none at all; for to depend on the decision of the ignorant, always gives room to doubt the uncertainty of the law, and it is impossible to expect the lower order, and uneducated country farmer capable of judging properly of any cause, set aside that, perhaps where property and life are at stake.

Every person who has been witness to a trial, well knows, that instances have occurred, where the jury have found a man guilty, and the judge has been astonished to find they gave a verdict so contrary to his charge, and has refused to accept it, and in a most peremptory tone ordered them back; and they have absolutely returned in a few minutes, with a verdict quite contrary to that which they before returned. How any set of men can be so childish, so ignorant, being on their oaths, remains to be explained. Where the case comes before a special jury, these occurrences cannot happen, besides they are, it must be allowed better judges, being a number of well informed gentlemen, and not a set of sleepy, poor, ignorant farmers, who are to decide a cause, that may perhaps in some instances be attended with a serious loss, if not a total ruin to the defeated party.

It is to be wished, that every nobleman and gentleman, who owns grounds, would only have recourse to the game laws, in a matter or case of the greatest necessity in defence of themselves, and not to the oppression of others, as is too commonly the fact. If a lord of a manor, who by wealth and situation in life, is enabled to shed those necessary blessings around him which he ought to do, and that such a one has ever in his power, he will, no doubt, add more to the stability of the laws of the country, than all the penal statutes that can ever be framed; he will, by a steady attention to his duty as a landlord, create confidence, and by mildness, indulgence, and attachment, draw down the admiration and love of his neighbours, and the surrounding country in which he resides. He should sometimes indulge his tenantry in the innocent sports of the field, in which he gives them an opportunity of adding to their strength and spirit; by being so indulged, they return with double pleasure, to their necessary labours.

The game laws were certainly not enacted for the punishment of these amusements, which give the blessings of health and exercise; and as *Mr. Serjeant Cockell,* said in his address to the jury, in the case of *Harker* v. *Allen,* at the York spring assizes, 1803: "He trusted there was not a judge or magistrate in this kingdom, who would put the penalties in force against a gentleman who sported honourably."

Not very long since, the following circumstance happened. The gamekeepers of noblemen are generally given all the fines and penalties that are inflicted on those people they detect, which not only makes them more watchful, but is sure to cause their swearing falsely against people who never have violated the game laws in any manner. Two game keepers belonging to a certain earl, were very hard pushed for money, and not knowing what to do, had recourse to the following mode: they killed five pheasants on their lord's grounds, and got a neighbouring farmer, as great a scoundrel as themselves, to accompany them, (I must beg leave to remark, that all the surrounding neighbourhood of that country, is so habituated to vice, that robbery and murder are considered as trifling crimes; and as a cock-pheasant's life, is far more valuable there at any time than a man's, lords and keepers are on a footing, *par nobile fratrum*). The farmer was to go to the neighbouring town with them, while the two keepers were to take their stations in the tap-room of a large inn in the town, and the farmer was to bring in the pheasants, to sell to any person who would buy them; but on no account was he to pretend to know the keepers, or the keepers him. The plan being thus fixed, the parties took their positions, when the guard of a coach, happening to call in to take a *drop*, the farmer offered the pheasants for sale, and the former, after some words, bought them, little thinking the deep scheme that was laid for him: the next morning he was summoned by the keepers, and was actually

fined five pounds a bird, and the money was divided between these three fellows.

Another time they owed a neighbouring farmer a spite, and knowing he had laid a trap for a fox that used to kill his poultry; these very same game-keepers, belonging to the very same *worthy* lord, killed a hare, and placed it in the trap in such a manner as if it had been taken in it; they then lay in wait, knowing the farmer would come to visit it, and on the poor man's coming, and taking out the hare, they seized him for having game in his possession, took the hare to their lord, (who was a magistrate,) to corroborate their diabolical plan; when being summoned, and not able to pay the fine, he was committed to gaol, where in ten days he died of the gaol fever; nor would this poor man be heard, nor allowed to explain how he became possessed of the hare; and what is still more lamentable, left a large family to mourn the loss of an industrious husband, and a regretted father.

The same parties procured a person to leave some pheasants at another farmer's house, which they planned on purpose, and then, on laying an information, obtained a search-warrant, and searched the house, where they found the birds, and had the man fined; which so terrified him, that he lost his senses.

Were I to relate all the stories I know, of this set of miscreants, and their *employer*, it would certainly fill a volume; but I am convinced that every person must perceive, when such acts are committed by gamekeepers, and encouraged and sup-

ported by their employers, it is no wonder that the game-laws should be considered oppressive; especially when in the hands of such men as those lords, or their neighbours, who, instead of making every necessary investigation, are so prejudiced in favour of their keepers, as to attend to their infamous falshoods, and encourage them in every act that can possibly be disgraceful, and shocking to human nature.

The Irish game-laws are in some measure like the English; but in many instances quite contrary. In Ireland, woodcocks and snipes are considered game, and the fine is the same for killing one there, as it is for killing a partridge; as to the notices, or warnings in that kingdom, no such thing is known, and I may venture to assert, that there are very few instances where a lord of a manor is acknowledged, such a person not being known, or the title been even attempted to be claimed, in any one instance. It is however to be hoped, that as an Union has taken place, that the game-laws of Ireland will be assimilated in several respects to those of England; not that the game laws of this country are on such an eligible plan, in many points, as to be followed. One part of the game-laws of Ireland, loudly calls for the attention of government, which is, to prevent hunting and coursing in summer; in that country, they hunt and course the whole year round, which is attended with the following bad consequences: first, it destroys all the leverets, besides the hounds being sure to *chop* all the young

birds; but then a greater evil than this ensues, the destruction committed by a pack of hounds running through a field of corn, in pipe or in ear, which often occurs. In defence of their hunting at that season of the year, it is averred by the huntsmen there as an argument, that they cannot do the smallest injury, as they go mountain-hunting; but such arguments advanced to old and experienced sportsmen, must of course be laughed at; for they well know, that even allowing they are on a mountain, that let a hare be started ever so far in on it, she will be sure to make a ring into her feeding-ground, for all mountain-hares at times, come to the low lands to feed in the evening, and return again at day-break; and therefore, except a *bridle* is placed in the mouth of each hound, it would be impossible to stop them, besides, if they were restrained from summer-hunting there, the game would be as plenty again, which is now scarce, and ever must be, until summer-hunting is entirely abolished. It also creates a great animosity between the lower and higher classes, in that part of the world; the lower order there are oppressed enough already, without any additional injury, in destroying the corn, the too probable dependance of these poor people, to make up their rent.

Allowing even that a hare keeps the mountains the whole day, numbers of young grous are chopped by the hounds in the months of June and July; this the Compiler has been an eye-witness to several times.

Grous-shooting there, does not come in until the 20th of August, and partridge the 20th of September, owing to tillage being much more backward than in England. The duty on dogs there is not so much as it is here, and therefore there are more packs of hounds kept in the county of Cork, than in ten of the largest counties in England; there is scarcely a person of three hundred pounds a year there, but who thinks himself entitled to keep a pack of hounds: certainly the feeding them is uncommonly cheap. A friend of mine to whom I was talking on this subject, a *Mr. Hawkes*, of *Sir Mount*, near Cork, in the course of a few minutes, counted *fifty* packs, and assured me, that there were as many more. The dog tax and game licence in that country, is badly collected, and as badly paid; although the game licence there is but two guineas and half-a-crown. To the great annoyance of many Irish gentlemen, a person of the name of *Darcy Mahon*, went about the country, and fined every person he could possibly find out, that had a dog who did not pay the duty, or any person who shot that had not a licence, by which means, he amassed a large sum of money: however, he took many unfair advantages of several people, amongst the rest, the Inn-keeper at *Nineteen-mile-House*, near Dublin, which is worthy of our attention.

Coming to *Nineteen-mile-House*, the Inn-keeper, not knowing who he was, amongst the rest of the dishes placed a hare before him, and after making a hearty dinner of Mrs. Puss, he sent

for the landlord, and requested to know, how he came by the hare? *Bonnyface* told him he killed it himself; upon which, Mr. Mahon took him before a magistrate, and inflicted the fine of five pounds on the inn-keeper. They returned to the inn, when Mr. M. called for his bill, he was astonished to find seven pounds charged for the hare; and, expostulating with his host, was told, that he could not possibly be ignorant of the price of this hare, which was five pounds, and two was his charge for dressing. The landlord absolutely made Mr. Darcy Mahon pay him that sum, before he would permit his horses to be brought out of the stable.

I cannot conclude this Work, without thanking *Sir William Addington*, for the very able assistance I have received from his elegant, and concise Abridgment of the Penal Statutes, in selecting the statutes respecting game for this Book. It would be only going over old ground, to add one word on their merit and intrinsic value; the many high encomiums already bestowed on them, has sufficiently distinguished him in the literary world: this celebrated work is so well known, and so universally admired, that it would be ridiculous in me to think of adding to, or detracting from the public suffrage, long since given in its favor; the conduct of this gentleman through life, has left him the pleasing reflection of its being generally known, that all his transactions will bear the strictest scrutiny and reflection. I am well aware, it is not customary in a publication of this sort, to

enlarge upon the merits or singularities of individuals; but I cannot resist the temptation of stating a few facts respecting this worthy character. When we look back, and recollect scenes that have passed, while he filled the situation of chief magistrate at *Bow-street*, we must be astonished; for it must be well known and recollected, that a more trying and dangerous time never was before experienced, (and now that he is not in the situation,) I trust we shall never see it again. Regardless of danger, and ever alive to the interest of his King and Country, he administered justice with the strictest impartiality; for he made no distinction between the peer and the peasant, and at one time gave a General, now high in rank, a very proper lecture on being called to an account for doing justice to an unfortunate recruit. Such characters as these, are not only proper persons in their situations, but faithful servants to the public. How often has Sir William Addington gone into a crowd, or a mob, and taken into custody the leaders of a seditious assembly, in the act of inciting a misguided multitude to riot and confusion: in fact, he discharged the duties of his office in such a perilous time, and government were so well pleased with his conduct, that I beg leave to add the following letter, as one of the highest testimonials of their satisfaction.

A CONCISE TABLE

OF THE

LAWS RESPECTING GAME AND DOGS.

☞ The Compiler thinks this Table will save the Sportsman a vast deal of trouble and time, as he will be enabled at one view to see not only the different offences, but opposite to each offence the penalties created under each Act of Parliament, to whom such penalties are given, as also the manner of recovering them, the costs a plaintiff is entitled to, and the time when the information or action ought to be brought.

Single Offences.	*Hares.*	*Grouse.*	*Heath Fowl.*	*Partridge.*	*Pheasant*	*Bustard.*	*Dogs.*	*Qualified*	*Unqualified.*	*Acts of Parliament.*	*Manner of recovering Penalties.*	*To whom given.*	*Costs.*	*Limitation of Actions.*	
Persons (two or more) being found in any grounds, inclosed or otherwise, between 8 at night and 6 in the morning, from October 1 to February 1; or between 10 at night and 4 in the morning, from February 1 to October 1; with gun or other instrument, for the purpose, and with intent to destroy, or with offensive weapons protecting, aiding, or assisting therein,	Hare	Grouse or other Game.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.			Commitment to the House of Correction as rogues and vagabonds, and punished, viz. imprisonment & whipping.		40 Geo. III. c. 50. 17 Geo. II.	By Information before a Justice.				Offenders may be apprehended upon the spot by servants or others, and delivered to a Peace-Officer; and if not then apprehended, a Justice's warrant may be obtained for that purpose, upon the oath of a creditable witness.
Being found armed and disguised in a warren, park, paddock, or place, where are usually kept Or robbing same, or rescuing any one in custody for same,	Hares							Felony.		9 Geo. I. c. 22.	By Information and Indictment.				
Killing, or using Dog, Gun, Net, or other engine, with intent to kill, between seven at night and six in the morning, from 12th of October to the 12th of February; or between nine at night and four in the morning, from the 12th of February to the 12th of October; or on a Sunday or Christmas-day,	Hare.	Grouse	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.			20l. nor less than 10l. first offence; 30l. nor less than 20l. second offence; 50l. for the third.		13 Geo. III. c. 80.	By Information before a Justice.	One Moiety to the Informer, and the other to the Poor of the Parish.	Costs.	One Month.	Using Dog and Gun, or Dog and Net in pursuit of Game, is considered but one offence.
Killing or having in possession, between the first of February and the first of September, Between the first of February and the first of October, (unless taken at a proper season and kept tame,				Partridge.	 Pheasant.			5l. 5l.	5l. 5l.	2 Geo. III. c. 19. 39 G. III. c. 34.	Same; or by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information in any of the Courts at Westminster.	To the Informer or Plaintiff.	Double Costs by Action.	Six Months.	
Between the 10th of Dec. and 20th of August, Between the 10th of Dec. and 12th of August, Between the 1st of March and 1st of December,		Grouse.	Heath Fowl.			Bustard.		20l. nor less than 10l. first offence; 30l. nor less than 20l. every other.		13 Geo. III. c. 55.	Same as above.	One Moiety to the Informer, and the other to the Poor.	By Information Costs. By Action Costs.	Three Months. Six Months.	
Having the possession of (unless in the case of a Common Carrier, who is not liable for what is sent up by qualified persons.)	Hare	Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard.			5l.	5 Anne, c. 14. 28 Geo. II. c. 12.	Same.	Same.	By Action double Costs.	Six Months.	By the 9th of Anne, it is penal for an unqualified person to have the possession of Game, both buyer and seller, if unqualified, are liable.—Buyer or seller informing in three months against the other, and convicting him, is exempted from the penalty, and entitled to the same benefit as other Informers.
Selling or offering to sale	Hare	Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard.		5l.	5l.	9 Anne, c. 25. 28 Geo. II. c. 12.	Same.	Same.	Same.	Same.	
Going in pursuit of, with Dogs, Guns, or other engines, or keeping same to destroy	Hare	Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard.			5l.	5 Anne, c. 14.	Same.	Same.	Same.	Same.	The bare keeping of certain Dogs is penal; but the keeping of a Gun, unless used to kill Game, is not so.

[Turn over.

THE FOREGOING TABLE CONTINUED.

Single Offences.	*Hares.*	*Grouse.*	*Heath Fowl.*	*Partridge.*	*Pheasant*	*Bustard.*	*Dogs.*	*Qualified*	*Unqualified.*	*Acts of Parliament.*	*Manner of recovering Penalties.*	*To whom given.*	*Costs.*	*Limitation of Actions.*	
Taking or wilfully destroying the eggs of		Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard.		Imprisonment 3 Months; or 20s.	20s.	25 Hen. VIII c. 11. 1 James I. c. 27. 8 Geo. III. c. 19.	By Information before two Justices or by Action.	To the Poor.	Double Costs by Action.	One year. 31 Eliz. c. 5.	
Shooting, tracing, or coursing in snow, or taking with snares,	Hare							Same.			Same.	Same.	Same.	Same.	By the 5th and 9th of Anne, all unqualified persons are liable to a penalty of 5l. for having in their possession dogs or engines.
Setting snares or other engines to destroy	Hare							Satisfaction at the discretion of a Justice, and 10s.		22 and 23 Chas. II. c. 25.	By Information before a Justice.	Same.		1 Month.	
Officer killing, without the consent of the Lord or Lady of the Manor,	Hare	Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant	Bustard, or any Game.		5l.	5l.	Annual Mutiny Act.	Same.	Same.			The Commanding Officer of a place is liable to pay 20s. within two days after conviction, and demand made by the Constable or Church-wardens, for each offence committed by any soldier under his command, or forfeit his commission.
Taking or destroying, or using Dog, Gun, Net, or other engine, to take or destroy without a certificate,	Hare	Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard, or any Game.		20l.	20l.	25 Geo. III. c. 50.	By Information before a Justice, or by Action, &c. &c.	By Informtion—1 Moiety to the Informer and the other to the King.—By Action to the Plaintiff.	Costs.	Six Months.	Justice may mitigate, not exceeding one half over and above the costs and charges.
Refusing to produce certificate, and to give name and place of abode, or giving a false name and place of abode, to any one producing his certificate, and demanding same, when in pursuit of	Hare	Grouse	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard, or any Game.		50l.	50l.	Same.	By Action.	To the Plaintiff.	Same.	Same.	
Game-keeper killing or going in pursuit of, out of the Manor,	Hare	Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard, or any Game.			5l.	5 Anne, c. 14.	By Information before a Justice, or by Action.	By Information—1 Moiety to the Informer and the other to the Poor.—By Action to the Plaintiff.	By Action Double Costs.	Same.	Game-keepers, qualified in their own right, need not enter their deputation the same as other unqualified persons.
Game-keeper neglecting to be registered, and take out his certificate for 20 days,									20l.	25 Geo. III. c. 50.	Same.	By Information—1 Moiety to the Informer and the other to the King.—By Action to the Plaintiff.	Same.	Same.	Justice may mitigate, not exceeding one half, over and above costs and charges.
Game-keeper selling or disposing of, without the consent of the Lord or Lady of the Manor.	Hare	Grouse.	Heath Fowl.	Partridge.	Pheasant.	Bustard, or any Game.			3 Months Imprisonment.	5 Anne, c. 14.	By Information before a Justice, or Complaint of the Lord or Lady of the Manor.				With consent, he is liable to the same penalties as other unqualified persons.
Stealing, or buying, receiving, harbouring, detaining or keeping, knowing the same to have been stolen; or having the skin found in possession,							Dog.	30l. nor less than 20l. first offence; 50l. nor less than 30l. second.		10 Geo. III. c. 10.	By Information before 2 Justices.	One Moiety to the Poor and the other to the Informer.	Cots.		Persons detaining an estrayed dog, after demand made, is liable to a special action, and damages with costs.

THE SPORTSMAN'S WEEKLY JOURNAL.

WEEK DAYS.	Grous.	Black-Game.	Partridges.	Pheasants.	Bustards.	Woodcocks.	Snipes.	Hares.	Rabbits.	Plovers.	Water-Fowl.	Where killed.	Number of shots fired.	Number of shots missed.	Observations.
MONDAY.															
TUESDAY.															
WEDNESDAY.															
THURSDAY.															
FRIDAY.															
SATURDAY.															
TOTAL.															

REMARKS.

THE BREEDING JOURNAL.

Bitches' Names and Age, with Remarks.	*When put to the Dog.*	*Dog's Name that warded, and Age.*	*When pupped.*	*Number of Puppies.*	*Puppy Dogs.*	*Puppy Bitches.*	*Puppies' Names.*	*When placed out to Nurse:*	*Farmers' Names at whose Houses the Puppies are nursing.*
Flora, three years old, second litter out of Mr. Chudleigh's white bitch Nelly; and got by Sir John Keane's Dash.	Nov. 14, 1802.	Don, four years old, liver & white, out of Lord Sackville's Juno, by Mr. Creswell's Ponto.	Jan. 16, 1803.	Nine.	Four.	Five.	Grous. Nelson. Brisk. Mentor. Flint. Nelly. Doll. Belle. Fanny.	March 29, 1803. Ditto. March 30, 1803. April 1, 1803. Ditto. April 3, 1803. Ditto. April 5, 1803. Ditto.	James Walsh. John Browne. William Jones. William Bryant. Richard Orchard. Robert May. George Green. Peter Badcock. Edward Cook.
Nelly, 6 years old, third litter out of Phillis, by Sir H. Massey's Dash.	Dec. 23, 1802.	Don, 3 years old, lemon and white, out of Mr. Wheeler's Quail, by my dog Pero.	Feb. 25, 1803.	Four.	Three.	One.	Pero. Ponto. Partridge. Quail.	April 24, 1803. Ditto. April 29, 1803. Ditto.	Joseph Townsend. Jeremiah Gibbes. John Kane. Thomas Taylor.

"White-Hall, December the 18th, 1795.

"Sir,

"I have great Satisfaction in expressing to "you the high Sense I entertain of your Services Yesterday, in "attending their Majesties and the Royal Family from St. "James's to the Queen's Palace—and I rely with much Con-"fidence on your Zeal and Activity, whenever the Preservation "of the public Peace and Tranquility, may render the same "necessary.

"I am,
"Your most obedient
"Humble Servant,
"PORTLAND."

"William Addington, Esq. &c. &c.
"Bow-Street."

When that unfortunate maniac *Hatfield*, made an attempt on the life of our most gracious and beloved Sovereign, at the play-house, Sir William was called on, and on seeing the poor wretch, immediately pronounced him to be insane, (indeed it must be allowed, that no person but a madman would attempt the life of any individual, much less that of his Majesty, a *Person*, if I may take the liberty of so calling him, that is the most indulgent and best of men,) this declaration of Sir William gave offence to some persons; upon which he was so hurt, as

to intimate his wish to retire, when the following letter was sent him:

"White-Hall, January the 2d, 1801.

"SIR,

"I have his Majesty's Commands to acquaint "you, that in consequence of the Representation, which was "sometime since made to His Majesty, of your Inclination to "retire from the Situation, the Duties of which you have so long "fulfilled with equal Credit to yourself, and Advantage to the "public Interests, His Majesty consents to, and approves of "your wishes.—And I have the Satisfaction to add, that in Con- "sideration of your long and *faithful* Services, His Majesty has "been farther graciously pleased to command me to signify his "Intention of allowing you a Pension of 400*l.* per Annum: "being the Amount of the Salary received by all the other "Police Magistrates.

"I sincerely congratulate you on this distin- "guished Mark of His Majesty's Favor and Condescension, "and am,

"Sir,

"Your most obedient

"Humble Servant,

"PORTLAND."

"To Sir William Addington, Knt."

However, to prove Sir William was perfectly correct, Hatfield remains in Bedlam to this day, which tends to shew the perspicuity of this excellent magistrate. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales made him a present of a gold snuff-box, as a mark of his esteem; and His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland of a large silver tea-urn of great value, as a token of friendship.

The Compiler now closes his labours, after paying every attention to the subject of shooting, and is well assured, that religion and this innocent amusement may go hand in hand. Recreation is most certainly as necessary for the body, as contemplation is for the soul; and unless we keep our *clay cottage* in order, its glorious inhabitant will never exert its faculties as it ought; surely then, there can be no harm for us to spiritualize our recreations, that whatever we do, or whatever amusements we are in pursuit of, they may tend to the glory of God, and create in us a lively sense of his faith; and more especially to remind us of that great and solemn account, we must one day give of all our actions.

On charging the fowling-piece, we may look on the shot, as a lively representation of mankind, who are sluggish, and unable of themselves to do any thing, 'till enlivened and actuated by spiritual fire, they are enabled to press forward to the mark of the high calling God; they have then power to pursue the

way of his commandments, when he has set their hearts at liberty.

When the piece is discharged, some of the shot fly wide of the object aimed at, occasioned by cavities and flaws in them; so many a human being has in him a deceitful heart of unbelief, which makes him depart from the living God.

Some shot, on account of their lightness, drop short of the mark; thus, likewise, Christians, though they have all a promise of eternal rest, yet many of them come short of it, being weighed in the balance, and found lighter than vanity itself.

Part of the shot is sometimes rendered ineffectual, being intercepted by twigs, or thorns, and turned out of the right and straight way; thus, worldly cares, or riches, often intersperse, and cut us off from that which ought to be the chief end of all our wishes,—the chief object of all our desires.

Others fly above, and go beyond the mark; such may be fitly compared to those who are actuated by a fiery zeal, void of knowledge, and not according to godliness; wild enthusiasts, who are for finding out ways of their own, in the mean time, neglecting the plain means of salvation, instituted by the church of Christ; soaring in the clouds, and aspiring, 'till, lost in airy mazes of their own imagination, they at length drop to the earth.

By much the greatest number of the shot fall short of the end for which they are designed; and after compleating their airy flight, are for ever lost, beyond the power of man to collect and make use of them again.

Thus, when we have finished our course, our doom is determined, beyond a possibility of our setting forward again in the race of Christianity.

When the shot are once discharged from the mouth of the piece, it is too late to recall them, 'till they fall of themselves, having spent their force. Thus, when we are born into the world, we must run either in the way of God, or the flesh, there is no standing still; we must persevere 'till the fire of our life is extinguished, and ceases to act upon us, then we return again to our earth, and all our thoughts perish.

The skilful marksman directs all his shot equally straight to the object he aims at. Christ shews all the path of life,—would have all men saved. Sometimes it happens that the mark is entirely missed, not a single shot coming near it: this, likewise, has its parallel; they are all gone out of the way, there is none that doeth good, no not one.

Lastly, the few shot that strike the mark, are the only ones that are to be esteemed, and reckoned to answer the end and design of the fowler; though they have all an equal chance of success. Thus among Christians, "many are called, but few

are chosen." Heaven and happiness is the object we all aim at; therefore, let us all earnestly contend, to be among the number of those few who find it.

TECHNICAL TERMS.

A *brace* of Grous
A *leash* of Grous
A *pack* of Grous
A *brace* of Black Game
A *leash* of Black Game
A *pack* of Black Game
A *covey* of Partridges
A *brace* of Partridges
A *brace* and a *half* of Partridges, for 3
A *bevey* of Quails
A *brace* of Quail
A *brace* and a *half* of Quail, for 3
A *nid, nye,* or *eye* of Pheasants
A *brace* of Pheasants
A *leash* of Pheasants
A *flock,* or *badelynge* of Wild Ducks
A *gaggle* of Geese
A *wing,* or *congregation* of Plovers
A *trip* of Dottrell
A *wisp,* or *walk* of Snipes
A *couple* of Snipe, (in Ireland called a brace)
A *couple* and a *half* of Snipes, for 3
A *flight,* or *fall* of Woodcocks

A *couple* of Woodcocks

A *couple** and a *half* of Woodcocks, for 3

A *brace* of Hares

A *leash* of Hares, for 3

Raise a Grous, or *pack*

Raise a Black Cock, or *pack*

Raise a Partridge, or *covey*

Raise a Quail, or *bevey*

Push a Pheasant

Flush a Woodcock

Spring a Snipe

Start, or *move* a Hare

A *brace* of Pointers, or Setters

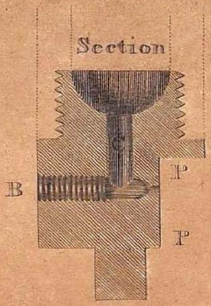
A *leash* of Pointers, or Setters, for 3

A *couple* of Spaniels

A *couple* and a *half*, for 3

* In Ireland Snipes and Woodcocks are termed *brace*, or *leash*, being in that kingdom considered Game, and coming under the penalties of the Game Laws in that country.

PLATE. 6.



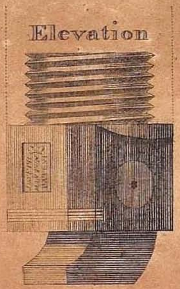
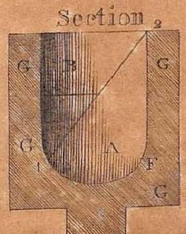


PLATE 8



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